■ **Saturday Special / A2-1,A3-1**

Francine Prieto has come a long way

Like father, like sons

■ **World / A10**

White House rejects solons' call for US pullout from Iraq

■ **News / A2**

Witnesses may clam up if 'jueteng' probe stops

■ **Sports / A28**

Pistons rout Spurs, even series at 2-2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Barbers-Biazon poll row may open 'can of worms'

By Michael Lim Ubac

ANGERED by allegations that his father tried to cheat in last year's senatorial elections, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers yesterday called on the Supreme Court to expedite its ruling on his father's poll protest, and warned the electoral dispute could "open a can of worms."

BARBERS-BIAZON/ A8

Protesters find new forum in cell phone text humor

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

MOST ORIGINAL!

IF "HELLO Garci?" has an all too familiar ring to it, that's because the excerpt from the controversial audio tapes has become the

PROTESTERS/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, June 18, 2005 ★★ 94 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 190 P18 website: www.inq7.net

PNP links Laarni to 'Garci' tape

Isafp agent's affidavit cited

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday linked a mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada to the controversial tape rocking the Arroyo administration, and suggested that the scandal was a well-planned scheme.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao quoted the affidavit of TSgt. Vidal Doble, the intelligence officer said to be the source of the tape, as saying that ex-starlet Laarni Enriquez provided the P2 million paid to Doble by lawyer Samuel Ong two months before the latter announced that he had the "mother of all tapes" allegedly containing incriminating phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Enriquez, who has three children fathered by Estrada, promptly denied this.

Estrada himself accused the President in a statement of conducting a witch-hunt.

Lomibao said that according to Doble, he received the money "immediately after he appeared in a scripted authentication covered by audio-video recording in one of the rooms of the 5th floor of Imperial Hotel [on] Timog Avenue, Quezon City."

"According to Ong, the money came from Ms Laarni Enriquez. This incident was witnessed by Doble's brother Reynaldo and Doble's female companion, named Marietta Santos," Lomibao told reporters at a press conference.

The payoff to Doble was made one morning last April, according to Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-NCR and lead investigator of the Doble case.

Lomibao did not say whether Doble had offered proof of his claims.

The PNP also withheld Doble's affidavit itself, and released to reporters only its "highlights."

PNP LINKS/ A8

PDI PHOTO

CLAIMING to be a victim of politicking, Laarni Enriquez, the ex-starlet mistress of deposed President Estrada, denies that she was the source of the P2 million allegedly paid to Sgt. Vidal Doble, the intelligence agent said to be the source of the "mother of all tapes."

IS HE next in line? Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Fernando Braganza is shown up close and personal with his commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, during a visit to Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, yesterday. Braganza is one of three generals rumored as the likely successor to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu who retires on June 24.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'I won fair and square'

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur—Declaring there will be no surrender, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she would not fall into an opposition trap to unseat her and insisted she won in last year's elections "fair and square."

In remarks at the close of the province's foundation celebration, the Chief Executive made her strongest statement yet on accusations she cheated in the elections without directly referring to an alleged wiretap which her political opponents said contained evidence of vote fraud.

Speaking alternately in Filipino, Visayan and English, Ms Arroyo said her enemies had been persistent. "They kept coming back, thinking that I would lose my nerve and you would lose faith in my ability to run the government," she said.

"They want to entrap me, but I will not surrender to the destabilizers," she said. "They said that I am not the real president but the people, including you here in Agusan del Sur, could confirm that I won," Ms Arroyo said. A Palace report on her remarks said the President described her victory as "fair and square."

Ms Arroyo said the renewed opposition effort to oust her was prompted by the unpopular but

'I WON/ A21

RP no stranger to bugging

By Fe Zamora

THE PHILIPPINES is no stranger to bugging. But not since a cassette recording of President Ferdinand Marcos crooning love songs to US actress Dovie Beams hit the air lanes in 1971 has clandestine eavesdropping reached greater heights in the popular culture than the "Gloria-gate" wiretap.

Filipinos have gone so bananas over President Macapagal-Arroyo's supposed hacked telephone conversation with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that there's a popular demand for "Hello Garci" ring tones for cellular phones. Opposition politicians say the audio is evidence Ms Arroyo cheated in the last election.

"This is dangerous," said retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles, a former military chief for domestic intelligence. The popularity of the ring tones are emblematic of a "slow but steady groundswell" against the Chief Executive.

Even if not yet found genuine, there is something about the tape that appeared to have dealt a "major blow" to the Arroyo presidency, said Robles. The Palace behavior is revealing. "It shows panic, confusion, extreme reactions. They have even declared asking the President to resign as unconstitutional," said Robles.

Despite official military denials, Robles said that the Armed Forces intelligence service, Isafp, conducted wiretapping ostensibly "only upon orders" from higher authority. A court order akin to

RP NO/ A21

Palace says Cabinet firmly behind GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A TOP presidential adviser said yesterday a plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo was "in full operation" but that her Cabinet was firmly behind her to help her ride out the crisis.

Political adviser Gabriel Claudio said the President's official family also backed her decision to maintain her silence on a controversial tape about a supposed attempt by Ms Arroyo to tamper with the results of the May 2004 elections.

Members of Ms Arroyo's official family declared their loyalty as text messages bounced around town claiming Ms Arroyo planned to declare martial law "on or before June 21," further ruffling an already tense political climate.

Malacañang promptly dismissed the claim as "ridiculous" and part of a disinformation campaign.

"Everybody understands, respects and supports the position of the President," Claudio said. This is because they believe that the tape controversy is part of a plot to destabilize the Arroyo administration, he said.

"Within the Cabinet, there is a clear common awareness that a real scenario to destabilize and bring down the Arroyo government is in full operation," Claudio said.

Given this, he said, all Cabinet members "are firmly committed to strengthen the hand of the President in their respective areas of work, to deal with these challenges against her government."

And the Cabinet is doing this by "demonstrating the continued resiliency, focus and efficacy of government to deliver on its commitments for the upliftment of the lives of our people," Claudio said.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the Cabinet remained supportive of its beleaguered leader.

"We do talk about what needs to be done," the national security adviser said.

PALACE/ A8

SDK SANLAKAS Youth
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LET the TRUTH come OUT!
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SpeaK Out!
TAPED!
LET the TRUTH come OUT!

PROTESTING University of the Philippines students at the UP Oblation show their disgust at the continued silence of President Macapagal-Arroyo on the allegedly wiretapped conversation between her and an election official.

JOAN BONDOC

Civil society groups to hold probe of tape

By Blanche S. Rivera and Juliet Labog-Javellana

STALWARTS of Edsa II are now hounding the woman they ushered into Malacañang.

Finally speaking out, civil society groups who backed President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of power in 2001 yesterday announced that they would form an independent fact-finding commission to verify the authenticity of the tape suggesting that she had cheated in last year's election.

The commission, to be composed of representatives of civil society, business and the religious sector, will investigate whether the woman's voice on the tape was Ms Arroyo's and if the conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had not been engineered.

"We urge the government to demonstrate its sincerity in establishing the truth by recognizing this commission and giving it full access to needed information and technical assistance from government agencies," a joint statement signed by at least 20 nongovernment organizations said in part.

Sixto Macasaet, executive director of the Caucus of Development NGOs (Code-NGO), one of the biggest supporters of Edsa II, said the commission would need the cooperation of Malacañang officials and the military intelligence service.

CIVIL/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/18/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
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Nene to Gloria: Consider letter of resignation

By TJ Burgonio

GO AHEAD with your trip to Hong Kong. While you're there, reflect on "what's best" for the country and consider writing a resignation letter.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday issued yet another unsolicited advice to President Macapagal-Arroyo who is set to travel to Hong Kong next week amid scandals rocking her administration.

Pimentel wished her well on the trip, which he said would enable her "to look at the situation from a distance" and take the right steps "to get herself and the nation out of this crisis."

"I think she should use the time to reflect on what is best for the country and consider writing her letter of resignation... she should explain herself to the people as best as she can," Pimentel said in an interview.

The senator, who sounded the call for the President to quit amid allegations of electoral fraud against her and corruption against her family, said the trip was obviously a strategy to escape the "heat in the kitchen."

"But I hope she will make it permanent," he said.

Malacañang had announced that Ms Arroyo, who had shrugged off clamor for her resignation, planned to visit Hong Kong next week in the first of a series of foreign trips to drum up investment in the country.

The day-long trip includes a meeting with the special administrative region's business leaders.

Ms Arroyo's recent sorties in the provinces, Pimentel said, were also aimed at endearing herself to the people amid the raging tape scandal.

"That indicates that she knows that the issue has turned from legal to political. She has to preempt the widening perception that politically, she can no longer hold the ship of state," he said.

The senator also said that he expected Ms Arroyo to reject a request by the House of Representatives for her comment on recordings of her supposed conversation with an election official suggesting that she tried to rig the 2004 presidential election.

Witnesses may clam up if 'jueteng' probe stops

By Christian V. Esguerra and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday said he was unsure if his witnesses would still cooperate in case the Senate heeded Malacañang's appeal to scrap its inquiry into the jueteng payola scandal.

"I cannot tell," he told the INQUIRER. "I will have to consult them. I have to play it by ear."

On Thursday, Malacañang said it wanted the Senate to end its investigation but must come up with tougher legislation against illegal gambling.

Cruz, chair of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said the appeal was meant to ease the twin scandals now involving President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family.

Cruz said he understands if the national leadership decides to stop the jueteng investigation because continuing it may contribute to the "big predicament of the administration."

"There seems to be a marked effort on the part of the administration to put an end to the hearing of the Senate on jueteng scandal (because) the hearing has involved a good number of public officials and influential persons. Understandably it would like the hearing to end," Cruz told the INQUIRER on Friday.

He said Krusada has "absolutely no other interests and no other motives except for jueteng and other illegal numbers game to be stopped" and that it was not involved in efforts to destabilize the government.

Cruz has lined up two more witnesses for the next Senate hearing scheduled next week.

Cruz said the witnesses—"one of whom would tie the testimonies of the four earlier witnesses and the other would implicate a rather higher influential person"—would put the national leadership in a bad light so that it wanted to stop the investigation.

"Personally, as one of the persons closely involved in the jueteng probe, while I would like it to continue to be able to hear what the witnesses would say, I'm ready to accept the fact that (if it continues), it might contribute to the big predicament of the administration," he said.

Besides allegations that members of the First Family were receiving jueteng payola, Ms Arroyo is herself suspected of cheating her way to the presidency.

The alleged electoral fraud was supposedly preserved in an audio containing her wiretapped conversation with Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"I understand that the better option for the government is to have the Senate investigation on jueteng stopped," the prelate said.

Cruz said Malacañang was obviously trying to spare more top personalities from being implicated in the illegal numbers game.

Testimonies by four of the bishop's witnesses had already dragged the names of the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, their lawmaker-son Mikey, and her brother in law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo of Negros Occidental.

Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor, Richard Garcia and Demosthenes Riva had claimed that jueteng operations in their territory in Bicol had the blessing of the First Gentleman.

The most explosive revelation came from the fourth witness, Sandra Cam, who claimed to have personally delivered jueteng money to Mikey Arroyo and his uncle Ignacio.

House probe on tapes could trigger crisis, warns Miriam

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago yesterday questioned a House move to send a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo asking Ms Arroyo to comment on wiretapped conversations allegedly showing that she cheated in the 2004 elections.

Santiago, a member of the administration coalition who has been staunchly defending the President in the raging tape and "jueteng" controversy, warned that the House investigation could lead to a constitutional crisis.

"For the legislative branch of government to require the executive branch to answer a national security question might be tantamount to grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction on the part of the House," Santiago said in a statement.

Santiago also questioned the legal basis for writing a letter to the President asking her to comment on the tapes.

"So far, the tape has not been authenticated, and in the legal contemplation it simply does not exist," she said.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday said the House intends to push through with the plan to send a letter to the President asking her "to comment and [state] her position" on the tape controversy even if Malacañang has indicated that Ms Arroyo would not heed the request.

"We are here in behalf of the public, for them to have the right information," said Remulla, chair of the public information committee, one of the five committees conducting the inquiry into the "Gloriagate" scandal.

The Palace cannot ignore the controversial audio tapes as it was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye who first divulged their existence, Remulla said.

Remulla said the investigating committees want a "formal" reply from the President so that they can decide on what to do next. A final draft has been approved and would be sent to Malacañang on Monday or Tuesday.

If the President formally rejects the request, the committees would look for foreign law enforcement agencies to authenticate the tapes, Remulla said.

Santiago said that since the tape has not been authenticated by its source and author, it cannot be used as a basis by the House committees for sending a letter to the President.

"The proper sequence is for the House committees to authenticate the tape first by producing their author, and then if necessary, to send the letter to the President. But even that procedure might be unconstitutional because it would violate the constitutional prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures," Santiago said.

Santiago said the President has to keep silent on the tapes to pave the way for an investigation into who in the military conducted the wiretapping.

Not for a coup, Customs says of seized guns

By Jerome Aning

THE SMUGGLED firearm parts seized by Bureau of Customs agents during an abortive sting operation at the Manila International Container Port the other day were unlikely to be used in destabilization efforts against the government.

"The firearms seizure had nothing to do with destabilization. This is more likely a simple smuggling attempt," BoC Deputy Commissioner Celso Templo said yesterday.

Templo, head of the BoC's Intelligence and Enforcement Group, added that in previous months, there have been several foiled attempts to smuggle firearms at the Davao and Cebu seaports and at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The case, along with the seized gun parts, had been forwarded to the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Customs police chief Nestorio Gualberto earlier said they were waiting for the shipment to be claimed yesterday when their sting operation was prematurely disclosed to the media.

Nobody claimed the cache, probably tipped off by reports aired over the radio, Gualberto said.

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Noli: No alternative to GMA

By Nikko Dizon and Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro presides at the inauguration of a military housing complex at Fort Bonifacio yesterday. The military has lifted a 7-day security alert, saying threats of plots to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo have faded. REUTERS

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday said there's no dearth of intelligent Filipinos who are qualified to replace President Macapagal-Arroyo but declined to comment on the possibility of his assumption of the Presidency.

De Castro, the constitutional successor of the President, was posed with the question: There's no People Power yet because there's no better alternative to President Gloria?

"*Hindi naman. Para naman sinabi mo na wala nang magaling na Pilipino* (Not really. It's like you're saying there's no intelligent Filipino anymore)," De Castro told reporters last Thursday at the Manila Hotel, where he was a guest at the launch of the second Philippine progress report on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations Development Program.

De Castro said it was too early for him to comment on his possibly replacing the President who has been dogged by allegations of corruption and electoral fraud.

He said the possibility had not even crossed his mind, and that those who want to replace the President should wait until her term ends in 2010.

De Castro also lamented that the ongoing political crisis brought about by the so-called Gloriagate scandal was scaring foreign investors away and painting a gloomy picture of the economy.

"The economy is the one affected, nothing else," De Castro told reporters in an ambush interview shortly after attending the turnover of symbolic keys to the medium/high-rise housing projects for soldiers in Fort Bonifacio.

"We see the weakening of the peso against the dollar, the low turnout in the stock exchange. If I am a foreign investor, I would also adopt a wait-and-see attitude in our economy," he said.

De Castro said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself was alarmed by the brewing political storm that she decided to go to Hong Kong on Monday to personally convince foreign businessmen to come and invest in the Philippines.

He appealed to the opposition to be rational in their call for investigation of the tapes containing the alleged wiretapped conversations between the President and an elections official regarding their plot to cheat in last year's presidential election.

"*Minsan naman hindi na totoo ang kanilang sinasabi. Huwag lang maging illegal ang kanilang ginagawa okay lang sana 'yon*" (Sometimes what they are saying is not true. As long as what they did was not illegal it would have been okay), De Castro said.

"*Marami kasi kasinungalingan na kagaya ng sabi nila na mga* handlers *ko daw yung ibang nanggugulo. Wala naman akong* handlers. *Ang* handlers *ko ay taongbayan, unless kinausap sila ng taongbayan*" (There are so many lies like their claim that my handlers are the ones stirring up trouble. I have no handlers. My handlers are the people, unless they talked to the people), he said.

Asked why the President was still silent on the tape, De Castro said it was up to her to decide when she would like to talk.

De Castro said he had been talking to the President since the wiretapping issue first broke out.

He said the President told him not to be bothered by political intrigues and just see to it that the North Rail project between the Philippines and China was implemented.

Dinky to opposition: Stop forum shopping

By Cynthia D. Balana

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday said the political enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo should stop "forum shopping" in their search for the truth on the wiretapping issue, saying their "unnecessary noise" was not doing the country any good and was only hurting the poor.

Speaking at a press conference, Soliman said the tape containing allegedly tapped conversations between the President and an election official was already being investigated by the constitutionally mandated offices.

Pursuing the issue in different forums where no concrete actions can be taken would only lead to destabilization which would in turn affect many poor families, she said.

"This will only aggravate political and economic instability. And in any kind of destabilization or political conflict, it is the poor who are most affected. Let's think first about our countrymen," Soliman said in Filipino.

She said many urban poor people that she talked to, particularly in the provinces, were not interested in the so-called "Gloriagate" and wanted the government to continue implementing its poverty alleviation programs.

Asked if she believed the President's continued silence on the issue was aggravating the situation, Soliman said the President had been properly advised to keep her silence.

"To talk or not to talk about it is the prerogative of the President. She has her own mind, she prays very hard and she believes that God is with her," she said.

Soliman said the President had asked the Cabinet officials to press on with their work and see to it that their programs were properly implemented.

On a scale of 1 to 10, Soliman gave the President a perfect 10 when she was asked to rate how credible the President was to her.

She said she believed Ms Arroyo really won in the 2004 presidential election and that this was backed by results of exit polls, the quick count of the National Movement for Free Elections, the official count by the Commission on Elections, the Supreme Court and even the international community.

Soliman said the political intrigues and destabilization efforts associated with the wiretapping issue only showed that Filipinos were still "politically immature."

"We are undergoing a process for political maturity. It means we are still not politically mature," she said.

She said that in the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of US President Richard Nixon, the tapes were never made public until the US Supreme Court asked for them.

"Here, it [the tape] was immediately released," Soliman said.

On the repeated calls by the opposition for the President to resign, Soliman said the people should step back and think what could be the vested interests of those who are asking Ms Arroyo to quit.

"These people are within their rights to ask for her resignation. But we should not be carried away by our feelings. A resignation by a President is not a simple matter. And I'm not encouraging or discouraging anything that the opposition would do. The laws are clear," she said.

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Int'l nursing school stirs worries in RP, elsewhere

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts — People like Kate Zajdel are desperately needed amid a worldwide shortage of nurses that is provoking crises from a bitter political feud in California to a cancellation of lifesaving operations for children in Ireland.

Yet she was among tens of thousands of qualified applicants turned away by US nursing programs last year because there are not enough teachers or space. The dilemma brought the 22-year-old New Yorker to a new international nursing school in the Caribbean country of St. Kitts and Nevis.

"I got put on a waiting list at four community colleges," Zajdel said. "I decided that instead of waiting, I would come here. ... I will actually be able to save lives."

Shortage inspire

American entrepreneur Robert Ross inaugurated the International University of Nursing on Wednesday, inspired by staffing shortages that are forcing nurses to work overtime in hospitals from the United States to Japan.

The $10-million institution, surrounded by sugar cane fields and overlooking the sea, accepted 200 students for the autumn semester and aims to enroll 3,000 by 2008. Tuition and other fees for the approximately 79-week program are $41,505 and students have to make their own living arrangements.

Zajdel joined a class of 24, including a Filipino soap opera writer looking for a new purpose in life and an engaged Egyptian couple desperate to work in the United States.

The school prepares students to take licensing exams to work as registered nurses in the United States, promising to lure foreign students eager to fill a shortage that the American Nurses Association expects to reach 275,000 by 2010. After about 45 weeks here, the students will do approximately 34 weeks of clinical work at affiliated US colleges.

US nursing programs rejected more than 125,000 qualified applicants last year because they did not have enough slots, according to the New York-based National League for Nursing, which estimates the United States needs triple the 20,000 nursing teachers it has.

Same story

"Every day nurses are making decisions about which patients to go and see first," said Cheryl Peterson, an analyst for the American Nurses Association. "Who is the sickest? Do I have the time to sit and talk them?"

The story echoes around the globe.

In Ireland, a 2-year-old girl died in 2003 one day after her heart operation was canceled because no nurses were available. The same hospital, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Dublin, apologized last October for canceling two other operations.

An article in the medical journal The Lancet criticized Britain for importing thousands of nurses from Africa, saying almost half the 16,000 medical workers hired for a recent expansion of the National Health Service came from outside Europe.

"The health systems of developing countries have been badly damaged by the emigration of their doctors and nurses to developed countries," said the article by Dr. John Eastwood of the University of London and several colleagues.

Ireland has more than 3,500 nurses from the Philippines. Japan, with shortages in rural communities and one of the world's fastest graying populations, could start hiring Filipino nurses under a new trade pact. In 2002, more than 7,200 foreign nurses took US licensing exams, a big jump from 5,500 the previous year, the National Council for State Boards of Nursing says.

Alarm in RP

Alarmed by the exodus, two lawmakers in the Philippines have introduced legislation to require Filipinos who receive nurses training to do mandatory stints in their home country.

Nurses in the Caribbean have long deserted home for higher pay in the United States. Trinidad, population 1.3 million, reports a shortage of 10,000 nurses. St. Kitts and Nevis, with 40,000 people, has 67 nurses and needs about 24 more, said Jean Condor, director of health institutions.

Critics say offshore medical programs like the International University of Nursing aren't likely to help, and could worsen the problem by giving people in poor nations more routes for finding jobs in wealthy lands. AP

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S story—"Bands for Life launched tonight"—on Page A9, the lead paragraph should read "A nationwide fund-raising campaign *for* cancer patients . . ." not *against*.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 16 story—"Tale of the tape: Kidnapping tied to poll fraud"—on Page A1, it was misstated that Querubin Makalintal was President Arroyo's lawyer during the 2001 presidential election. The name of Ms Arroyo's lawyer is Romulo Makalintal and she was her lawyer during the 2004, not 2001, presidential election. There was no presidential election in 2001 as only senators, representatives, local officials and party-list representatives were elected in that year.

* * *

IN THE same story, the full name of the election officer from Tipo-tipo, Basilan, was correctly stated as Hadja Rashma Hali when first mentioned, but when mentioned next, it was misstated as Sali. It should have been Hali.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

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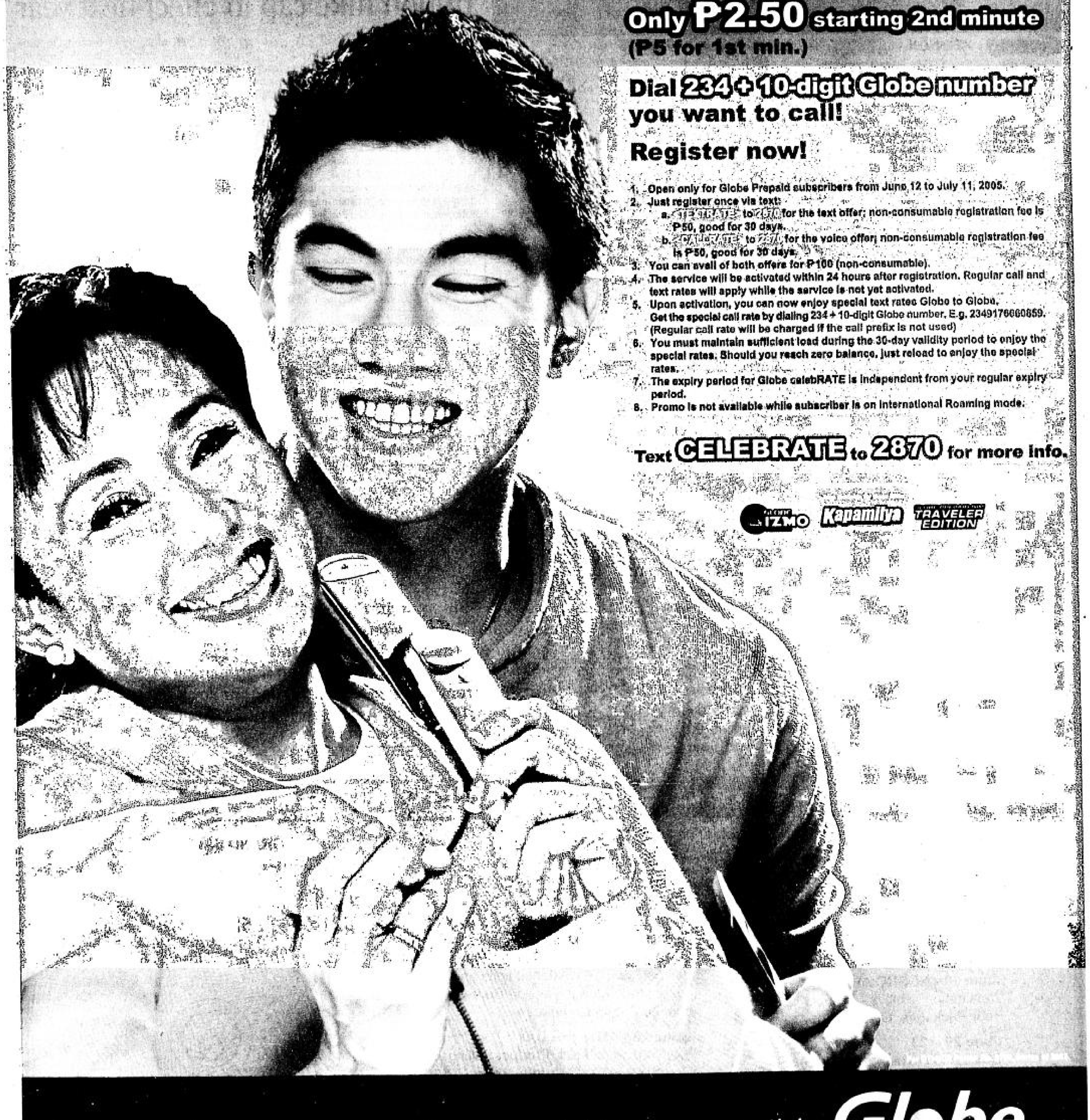

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More woes await GMA when VAT begins – Nene

By TJ Burgonio

OPPOSITION senators yesterday warned that the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law next month would create new problems for the already scandal-wracked administration and would become another flash-point for street protests.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that instead of fortifying the country's fiscal position, the new revenue measure would "multiply the problems" of the administration, currently buffeted by the jueteng scandal and allegations of electoral fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

By its nature, the expanded VAT would trigger a new round of increases in the prices of basic commodities and hence, add more burden to the consumers, he said.

"VAT certainly will unduly create more problems for the administration, woes for the people. Prices of basic commodities will skyrocket as a result of the VAT," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

The revenue measure, part of a tax reform package designed to head off the country's fiscal crisis, is set to be implemented next month.

Signed into law last month, the law retains the VAT rate at 10 percent, but grants Ms Arroyo a standby authority to raise it to 12 percent in January next year under certain conditions.

It is expected to generate at least P28.75 billion in additional revenues this year and P104.2 billion upon full implementation next year.

By implementing the law, the administration would create another "perilous front, this time economic, [for unrest]," Pimentel said.

"With the combination of the political and economic fronts, she's done; she's finished," he said.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III agreed with Pimentel, saying "VAT will be a symbol of how her incompetence and corruption have brought more pain to the people."

Pimentel and Osmeña, along with Senators Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal, earlier filed a petition with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the VAT.

The senators questioned in particular the law's provision granting the President provisional authority to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent in January next year under two conditions: if the VAT tax effort exceeds 2.8 percent of gross domestic product or if the national government deficit exceeds 1.5 percent of GDP.

They insisted that the power to raise taxes, such as VAT, was vested only in Congress and could not be delegated to the President.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the government has no choice but to implement the law despite the expected street protests it would generate.

"The people will be unhappy because their electric bills will increase and their budgets will be disrupted but that's already inputed into the unhappiness of the people," Enrile said.

"It will spark more protests, there's no question. During the time of Marcos, we'd been hit by protests, big big ones. But for as long as the mechanisms of power are not broken down, as I said, [that won't be a problem]."

Tuition hike cap in effect next year

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education clarified yesterday that their order capping tuition to the level of the national inflation rate will be in effect for next year, and not this school year.

CHEd deputy executive director Julito Vitriolo also said old rules on tuition increases are in effect this year since the new rules were only decided by the commission en banc only last May while enrollment was ongoing.

Vitriolo noted that the commission had approved all requests for increases in tuition. As a result, most of the schools got a go signal to increase tuition above the country's inflation rate of 8.5 percent.

The CHEd official was reacting to statements made by militant student groups who said that despite the new CHEd order capping tuition increases to the inflation rate, increases were the highest in recent years.

"Those (allegations) are not in proper context because the new rule would be implemented next year. We cannot impose the cap this year because it is not retroactive and it would be a violation of the existing rules," Vitriolo said.

Under the new rule of the commission, colleges and universities who want to increase tuition beyond the inflation rate will have to consult their stakeholders, like students and parents, and get prior approval from the CHEd.

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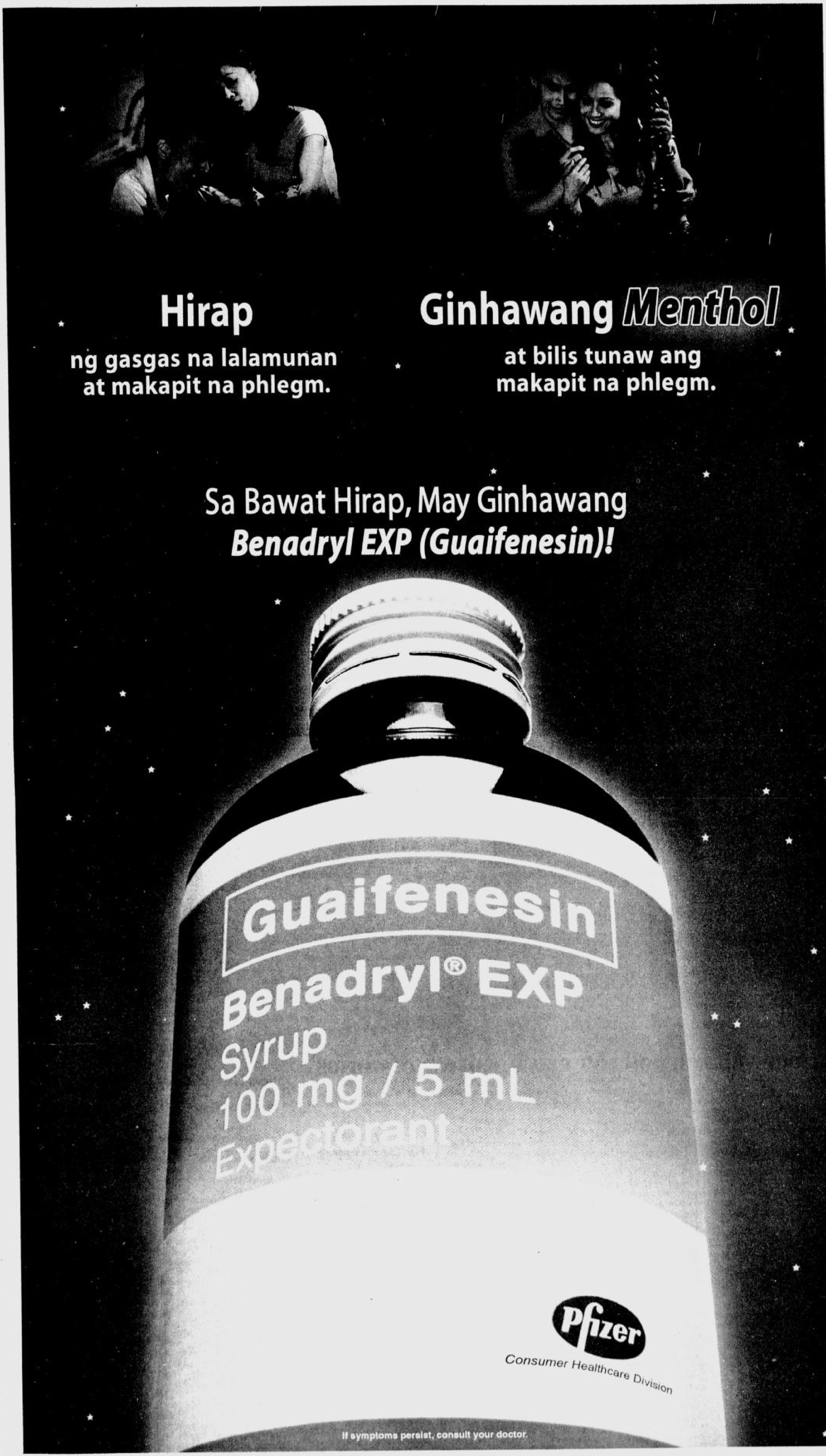
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A LAUGHING MATTER
Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. gamely faces militants led by party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño and Renato Reyes calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo in front of the Comelec office yesterday. REM ZAMORA

PNP links Laarni to 'Garci' tape

From page A1

Chief Supt. Ricardo Dapat, head of the CIDG, said at least seven persons, including Enriquez, would be summoned on Tuesday or Wednesday in connection with Doble's affidavit.

Dolina said "political personalities and retired military men" were among those to be summoned.

But Enriquez said she had never met Doble and did not know him. She also said she did not even know where Imperial Palace Suites was located.

"Are they running out of suspects that they are trying to pin everything on the opposition?" Enriquez told the INQUIRER.

She said what was important was for Ms Arroyo to say whether hers was the woman's voice in the alleged wiretapped conversations suggesting fraud in last year's presidential election.

"*Luma na ang mga bintang nila sa akin. Ganyan din ang bintang nila noong nangyari ang Oakwood* (Their accusations against me are old hat. That's what they said about me at the time of the Oakwood mutiny in 2003)," Enriquez said.

She also said she did not have that kind of dash because the family's bank account had been frozen by the government.

In 2003, police said mutinous soldiers used Enriquez's apartment in Mandaluyong as a staging point in seizing the Oakwood building in Makati.

'Allegations'

Lomibao himself described Doble's sworn statement as mere "allegations" for now.

Dolina concurred with Lomibao, saying the money trail to Enriquez was "hearsay" that needed to be confirmed.

Quoting the affidavit, Lomibao said Doble had categorically declared that contrary to Ong's statement, he was not the source of the "mother of all tapes."

Ong, a former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, said in a press conference on June 10 that he had in his possession tapes showing that Ms Arroyo cheated her way to power. He then sought sanctuary at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati.

Lomibao said this was how, according to his affidavit, Doble ended up with Ong at the San Carlos Seminary:

In April, or around two months before Ong's press conference, the former NBI official offered Doble P2 million in exchange for stating that it was he who gave the tapes to Ong.

Doble was shown the money inside a room at the Imperial Hotel, spread on a bed along with photos of members of his family.

Ong said all Doble had to do was read a prepared statement—to be recorded on video—that would "authenticate" the tapes that Ong was holding.

Doble refused, but was later forced to agree. He accepted the cash and read the prepared statement on video.

"When he refused, Ong threatened him that something would happen to him and to his family," Dolina said in Filipino.

In one of Ong's earlier interviews, he categorically denied "kidnapping" Doble.

He said Doble had admitted to Bishop Teodoro Bacani that he gave Ong the tapes on his own.

Sharing the money

Still quoting the affidavit, Lomibao said Doble gave P200,000 each to a Lito Santiago, supposedly a driver-photographer of the NBI and a trusted driver-bodyguard of Ong, and to his brother Reynaldo, and P75,000 to his female companion.

Asked where the balance of the money went, Lomibao quoted Doble as saying that he could "account for the rest."

Investigators said only the courts could compel Doble to produce the rest of the money, assuming a case was filed against him .

At press time, police officials had yet to determine whether to file a case against Doble or the persons he had mentioned.

Investigators said Santiago and Doble had known each other since their stint at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

In a diagram showing Doble's associates, police said he and Santiago were "drinking buddies."

Turn of events

According to Lomibao's account, Doble and his companion were in the care of Lito Santiago and several armed men in the house of a "Dr. Cherry" on Maceda Street, Sampaloc, Manila, two days before Ong went public.

Doble and his companion were taken to the Sto. Domingo Church, where they met with "prominent personalities."

Lomibao did not disclose their names, but said they would be asked to validate Doble's claims.

Continuing the account, Lomibao said Ong had instructed Santiago to take the couple to the San Carlos Seminary at around noon on June 10.

In the seminary they were met by Rez Cortez, an actor active in the camp of the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., and a "media man." Doble was then introduced to Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

"TSgt. Doble claimed that his presence, and that of his female companion, at the San Carlos Seminary was not of their own volition," Lomibao said.

"When Attorney Ong asked Doble to acknowledge before the media that he was the source of the tape, he refused. He then secretly [told] his wife Arlene through text messages his whereabouts, and asked her to seek the help of the President in extricating him from the seminary," Lomibao added.

On June 13, Arlene Doble flew to Metro Manila from Kidapawan, North Cotabato. She went to Camp Aguinaldo and sought help from Doble's immediate superior.

Later that day, Doble was "released from the seminary" through the help of Bishop Socrates Villegas. He is now detained at Camp Crame.

Desperation

In an interview over radio dzBB, Enriquez said the administration's supposed efforts to link her to the scandal were "laughable."

"*Nakakatawa ito.* This is a very desperate measure on their part," she said.

She described herself as a "private person" who had nothing to do with politics but had been the victim of politicking.

Enriquez said the latest accusation against her was meant to embarrass Estrada and pin him down.

"*Tinatahi-tahi lang nila ito at ibinabato sa oposisyon* (They're piecing this together and throwing it at the opposition)," she told dzBB.

She said she would confer with her lawyer, Rufus Rodriguez, on what legal measure to take.

Enriquez also said the issue was whether it was the President's voice on the tape or not: "It's a moral issue. The question is, is it really her voice?"

She said she had learned that she would be summoned to appear at a Congress inquiry.

"I'd go there if Ms Arroyo would go there too," she said. *With a report from Nelson F. Flores*

Palace says Cabinet firmly behind GMA

From page A1

The justice secretary said the Cabinet had been meeting as a group since three weeks ago at the height of the tape controversy.

But since June 10, the Cabinet had only two meetings, including one held on Independence Day, Gonzalez said.

In that meeting, which Ms Arroyo did not attend, Gonzalez said the Cabinet members talked about what each respective agency had done in terms of reforms but they also talked about the situation in the country brought on by the scandals.

Gonzalez said there were some members who expressed concern over the whole situation.

"The sense I got is that we are in support of the President," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also said that if Ms Arroyo made any comment about the tape, "in effect, this would have the nature of legalizing what's illegal."

Angels won't help

"She will be playing into the hands of her critics," he said, adding that her critics would not believe whatever she said or did, anyway.

"Even if 10 angels would come down here to support her, the [critics] will still not believe her if their minds are already closed," the justice secretary said.

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, played the text messages about Ms Arroyo's supposed plan to declare an emergency.

"Those are just speculations. Besides, if that were true, would that come out in text [messages]?" Abu said after attending a turnover of a military housing project in Fort Bonifacio.

Business spooked

Vice President Noli de Castro, who was at the same ceremony, said the administration should address the scandals because they were spooking the business sector.

Asked if he thought that the government should take "aggressive action" to preempt a destabilization plot, De Castro replied: "No. As long as they do not do anything illegal, it's OK. But there are a lot of lies going around."

He denied a new report he was consorting with antigovernment forces and some military personalities so he could assume the presidency.

Text messages

One INQUIRER reporter yesterday saw two versions of the "martial law" text messages.

One message said Ms Arroyo would declare martial law on or before June 21 with Transportation Secretary and former national police chief Leandro Mendoza and retired Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya heading "special operations teams."

It read: "GMA will declare martial law on or before june 21. Larry mendoza and berroya to command SOT's. 500 bushmaster automatic weapons for berroya's hit squads have arrived. If the plan is exposed baka matakot si gma. Ikalat na. The plan includes closing mass media and all cell phones. There is some resistance in the AFP. For sure, key personalities will be arrested."

Another message claimed Ms Arroyo had met with all top military officials along with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Secretary Gonzalez and Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao to declare a state of emergency.

It read: "Flash report: GMA met all AFP top brass last night and plan 2 declare state of emergency they general (sic) are buying the idea so that all retirable will be extended Ermita Tiglao Gonzales were present there will be anarchy in the street (sic) if that will happen. Kawawang Pilipino (Poor Pilipino)."

'Don't ask me'

Abu denied there had been such a meeting.

"The last time I was in Malacañang was four, three days ago because we talked about the visit of the President of Indonesia," he said.

Asked if martial law was an option at this time, Abu said: "Don't ask me that anymore. I'll be retiring in seven days."

Abu will step down on June 24. Ms Arroyo has not named his replacement.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the text messages were "part of the disinformation campaign of some people."

Bunye also denied rumors that Malacañang was gearing up to silence critics by arresting them without warrants.

"This is ridiculous and whoever is saying that is suffering from total lack of creativity," said Claudio.

Despite Congress' plan to start on Tuesday its probe on the controversial wiretapped conversation supposedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the President is pushing through with her normal schedule.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo would fly to Hong Kong Monday to meet with businessmen and return the same day. On Tuesday, she is scheduled to meet two state leaders—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Gambia President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero seemed to take the text messages with some degree of seriousness.

"The President should be calm and sober and not make the mistake of attempting to suppress the truth by declaring martial law because this will not sit well with our people," said Escudero, secretary general of the United Opposition. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Barbers-Biazon poll row may open 'can of worms'

From page A1

The son of defeated senatorial candidate Robert Barbers—who lost to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon in the 2004 race—said that although the uncanvassed senatorial votes from five contested towns in Mindanao were statistically insignificant to national candidates, reopening the ballot boxes would show how people in those areas really voted in the presidential race.

"We will know how the national candidates fared in these towns," the congressman said.

Barbers aired his appeal to the Supreme Court in an interview with the INQUIRER following the release of a tape allegedly containing separate wiretapped conversations of ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano with several people, supposedly including President Macapagal-Arroyo and Robert Barbers.

In one conversation, Ms Arroyo purportedly expressed her wish to win over opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. by 1 million votes.

In another conversation, which supposedly occurred on June 3, the elder Barbers allegedly wanted 70,000 more votes in his tally so he could beat Biazon.

The tape has not been officially authenticated and there has been no official findings on who were the people supposedly talking on the tape.

The Surigao del Norte representative insisted that his father was not a "greenhorn politician" who would cheat in his own turf, Mindanao, where "he's extremely popular among Mindanaoans, who are known for being clannish."

Cheaters don't lose

"My father is not stupid to say those things to Garcillano. He's not a neophyte; he has been a politician half his life. Has there been anyone who cheated and yet ended up losing?" Rep. Barbers asked.

Associates of the congressman have said the high court may release next month its decision on former Senator Barber's petition seeking the annulment of Biazon's election.

Biazon was proclaimed the winner on June 2, 2004 by a margin of 10,685 votes over Barbers, although 29,219 votes have yet to be canvassed by the National Board of Canvassers up to now.

Dangerous grounds

"I appeal to our friends in the media to be fair and not to drag Senators Barbers and Biazon in this alleged taped conversation because our case is still pending with the high court. We don't want to tread on dangerous ground. Don't push us to the wall," said the second son of the ex-senator, who is with wife Virginia in Europe.

"If these areas in Mindanao have not been canvassed, then let me ask these questions: Who won as president and vice president in these five towns? Who won between my father and Biazon?" said the lawmaker.

Rep. Barbers said the "people of these five towns deserve to know who won as president and vice president in their areas."

But he said the Comelec had no record of the votes of national candidates in these areas because it had "prematurely proclaimed" Biazon and subsequently junked his petition to annul the proclamation.

That prompted the elder Barbers to go up to the high court seeking to reverse the Comelec ruling. The case is pending with the Supreme Court en banc.

"The Comelec played deaf and blind to my father's plea. It told him, 'all is lost. It's done,'" lamented the lawmaker.

Frank Sinatra no more

Rep. Barbers also rejected the authenticity of the tape, saying that it was not his father's voice on it.

"I should know because I'm his son. How can that be? After his [throat] operation, his voice changed. I used to joke that he had a voice like Frank Sinatra, but not now his pitch is much lower," he said.

He said that it was illogical for his father to ask Garcillano to cheat in his favor after the Comelec en banc had declared Biazon the 12th winner in the senatorial race.

"Even the most astute politician will not pay P2 million to an election officer to canvass the votes after his rival had been already proclaimed. The more logical favor that we could have asked is to ask Comelec to annul the proclamation," said Representative Barbers.

"And which was exactly what we did. We petitioned Comelec to annul the proclamation [and] went up to the Supreme Court when the former junked the petition," said the lawmaker.

2 PNP ex-generals plan 'counterattack'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWO former senior police officers—Leandro Mendoza and Reynaldo Berroya—are planning a counterattack against detractors of President Macapagal-Arroyo, one of them said yesterday.

"We already know the people who have the resources for these things, which is why Secretary Mendoza and [I] have been coordinating and comparing notes since morning to come up with an action plan to counter this," Berroya said in phone interview with reporters.

Mendoza, a former Philippine National Police chief, and Berroya, a retired chief superintendent, are both staunch allies of Ms Arroyo and key players of the Edsa II People Power revolt which brought her to power.

Berroya did not reveal what these countermeasures were but he denied rumors of a return to martial law.

Berroya said he and Mendoza had already identified the source of a text message warning of a supposed plan by Ms Arroyo to declare martial law.

"They have a text brigade and we are familiar with them but we have to finish first our investigation to identify them," said Berroya, who had been telling associates that all these text rumors were "a joke" but that they had been making him dizzy.

The series of scandals that have battered the Arroyo administration the past weeks showed that these were all "coordinated and interconnected efforts" by sectors whose main goal was to topple the government, Berroya said.

"They are not so picky anymore [on what issues to raise against the President]," he said.

Berroya said the President's critics might have raised the specter of martial law to put fear in the citizenry because "they noticed that the previous issues they raise have not clicked."

"They are looking for something to scare the public into an angry mob," Berroya said.

Berroya is currently the National Capital Region chief of the Land Transportation Office, an agency of Mendoza's Department of Transportation and Communications.

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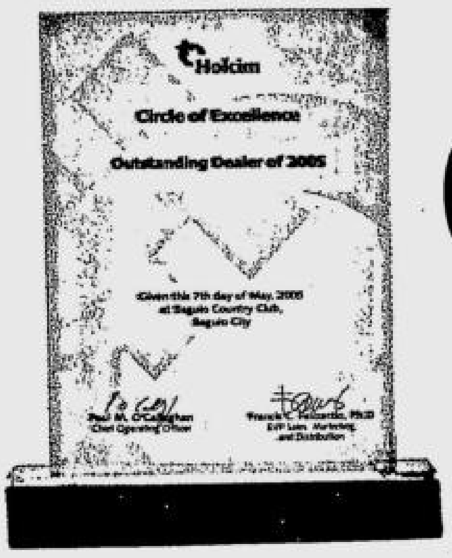
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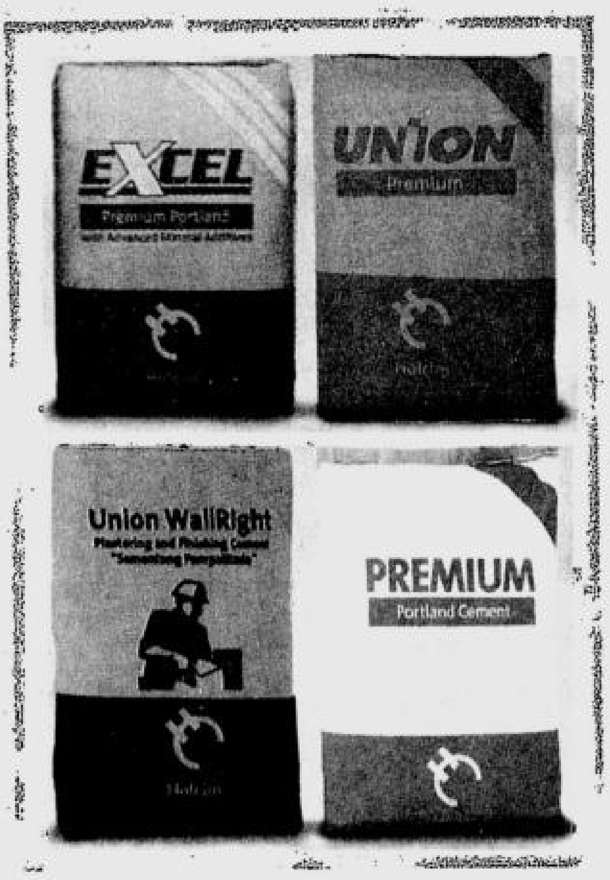
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

White House rejects solons' call for US pullout from Iraq

WASHINGTON—Critics of the Iraq war proposed a congressional resolution on Thursday calling for a US troop withdrawal in a reflection of growing American unease, but the White House and the Pentagon rejected the idea.

The resolution, backed by North Carolina Republican Rep. Walter Jones and Hawaii Democratic Rep. Neil Abercrombie, calls for the Bush administration to develop a plan by the end of this year to pull out all American troops from Iraq and to begin the withdrawal by Oct. 1, 2006.

Jones said US forces had removed Saddam Hussein, given Iraqis a chance at democracy and were training their military.

"After they're trained, what else should the goals be? Do we want to be there for 20 years or 30 years?" he said.

The resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives as White House aides said President George W. Bush planned a more determined effort to defend the Iraq war amid growing public doubts.

Bush spokesperson Scott McClellan said setting a withdrawal date would send the wrong message to Iraqi insurgents.

"This message would say to the terrorists: 'All you have to do is wait until that day when our troops leave and then you can start carrying out those attacks and just hold out,'" he said.

The resolution is not expected to get far in the Republican-led Congress, which, although critical of aspects of the war, has supported the president's efforts.

About two-dozen House Democrats held their own hearing on a British government memo that said that by July 2002 US intelligence was being "fixed" around a policy that would inevitably lead to war with Iraq. US-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003.

"If these disclosures are true ... they establish a prima facie case of going to war under false pretenses," said Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, who led the forum.

Conyers showed up at the gates of the White House with several other members of Congress to deliver the signatures of 122 congressional Democrats and 560,000 citizens on petitions seeking a response on the memo.

"We want an answer to our letter and if we have to send him 1 million signatures or 10 million, we're going to keep collecting them," said Conyers, who asked to deliver the bundles of documents in person but was told by White House staff members to pass them through the gate.

Dozens of protesters shouted "Let Conyers in" as they carried signs that said: "Bushame on you. You lied, they died." *Reuters*

AN IRANIAN woman holding her identification card waits to vote in the Iranian presidential election in Tehran June 17. Iran holds a presidential election under scrutiny by observers keen to see which direction the Islamic Republic will move now that the presidency of reformist Mohammad Khatami has ended. REUTERS

US shouldn't 'get away with murder'—Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Fallen Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein should get a fair trial, otherwise the US will be able to "get away with murder" and capture any world leader it wants in the future, former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad said Friday.

"We are interested to see that justice is done, even in the case of Saddam Hussein, because a principle is about to be set here," Mahathir told reporters.

He was announcing details of the international Emergency Committee for Iraq that was formed Wednesday to ensure a fair trial for Saddam and other officials of the former Iraqi government that was ousted by US forces two years ago.

The committee is co-chaired by Mahathir, former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella and former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Mahathir said the US occupation of Iraq set a dangerous precedent of legitimizing invasion of countries by accusing their leaders of wrongdoing.

"If it is accepted that the people who launch a war, (and) capture heads of governments can then put this head of government on trial, then other heads of governments will face this danger," he said.

"Supposing they decide to invade Syria then (President Bashar Assad) would be caught and accused of mass killings and things like that. Again there will be a trial and he is going to be found guilty even before anything is done." *AP*

Iranians vote for new president in close race

TEHRAN—Iranians began voting for a new president on Friday, with moderate cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani the front-runner in a race the United States has declared unfair.

Polling stations opened at 9 a.m. to serve 47 million eligible voters across the country.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, among the first to vote, told Iranians they would be endorsing not just their chosen candidate, but their country's Islamic system.

"Whoever you vote for among those seven candidates, it's a vote for him, the Islamic republic and the constitution," he said after using a special ballot box at his official residence.

Rafsanjani tops most opinion polls going into the election, expected to be the closest since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

However, the cleric, seeking to regain the office he held from 1989 to 1997, needs 50 percent support to avoid an unprecedented run-off between the two top vote-getters.

His closest challengers are reformist former Education Minister Mostafa Moin, 54, and conservative ex-police chief Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, 43, although conservative former Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is said to have gained ground.

Any run-off would probably be held on June 24. *Reuters*

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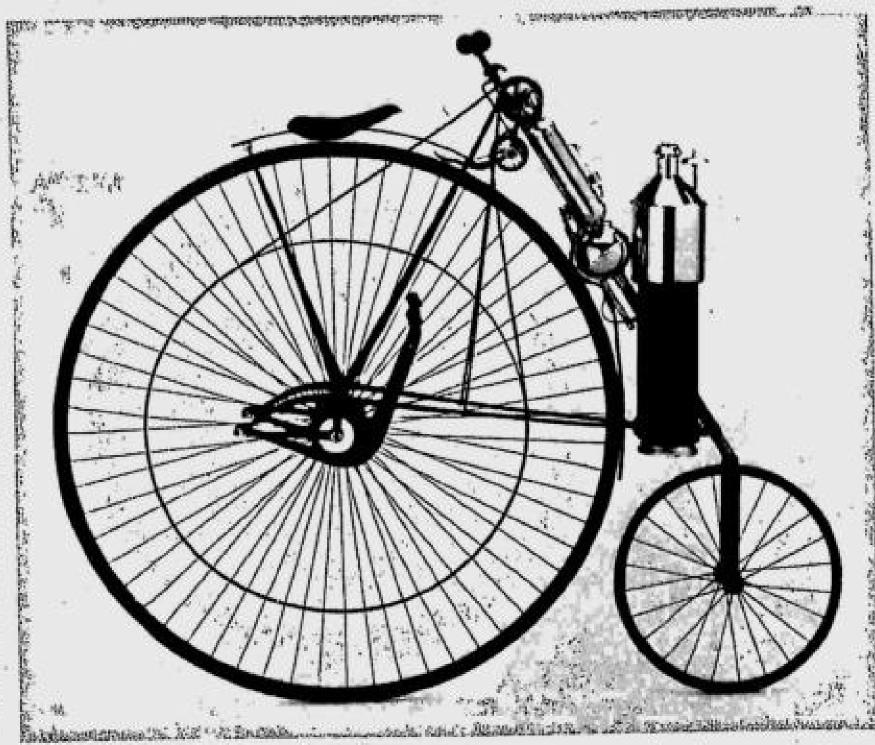


HOW'S THIS FOR A MOTORBIKE, RICO?

This 2005 photo released by Wonders: The Memphis International Cultural Series, shows a replica of an 1884 Copeland Steam motorcycle from the exhibit "The Art of the Motorcycle." The exhibit is modeled on a 1998 exhibit at the Guggenheim Museum in New York and considers the motorcycle as a work of art and an icon of style. AP

Judges say Disney can be sued over safety of rides

LOS ANGELES—Days after a young boy died on a space ride at Walt Disney World, the California Supreme Court opened a new avenue to sue Disney and other theme park operators, ruling the parks have a duty to keep customers safe, even when they seek the thrill of danger.

The ruling, released on Thursday, was a victory for the family of a 23-year-old Spanish woman who suffered a fatal brain injury aboard the Indiana Jones ride during her 2000 honeymoon at Disneyland in southern California.

The court said the family could sue Walt Disney Co. under a state law usually applied to transportation companies. Disney declined to comment on the ruling. The case now returns to Los Angeles Superior Court for trial.

The decision comes days after a 4-year-old boy died of unknown causes after riding Disney's Mission: Space ride at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. No cause of death has been identified.

The California court ruled that Walt Disney Co. was required to provide vehicles that are "safe and fit for the purposes to which they are put."

Cristina Moreno suffered a brain aneurysm as a result of "violent shaking and stress" she experienced on the ride, her family's lawyer, Barry Novak said. She died in Spain about two months later.

Rob Doughty, vice president for communications at Disneyland resort, commented on the decision: "While we disagree with the decision, it has nothing to do with the safety of our parks. Our commitment to guest safety has been, and continues to be, unwavering." *Reuters*

EU to extend deadline for ratifying ailing Charter

BRUSSELS—Leaders of the demoralized European Union agreed on Thursday to extend the deadline for ratifying their troubled constitution but were torn over whether to call an official pause that some fear would kill it.

The 25 nations also seemed no closer to a deal on the bloc's long-term budget at the start of a two-day summit amid a crisis unleashed by "No" votes in French and Dutch referendums on the constitution.

Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern said there would be a phase of debate on the future of the charter and all had agreed to extend the deadline for ratification beyond November 2006.

All member states must approve the treaty, drafted to ensure an enlarged EU works more effectively with a streamlined decision-making system, for it to come into force.

Ahern did not spell out whether member states would press on with ratification of the process during this period—as some want—which could mean planned referendums go ahead.

Luxembourg, the current EU president, proposed putting the constitution on ice for 9-12 months.

That was at odds with the stand taken by French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schoeder, who have insisted that the ratification process should go on. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt told the leaders a "pause" would send the wrong signal to citizens.

A delay would mean the EU limps on under the convoluted Nice Treaty, widely seen as a recipe for paralysis, rather than adopting institutional reforms envisaged in the constitution.

Chirac said in an opening address that the charter was not dead despite its rejection in his own country and called for an emergency summit "to bridge the gulf that threatens to open between Europe and its peoples."

He raised doubt over the EU's ability to continue expanding after the accession of 10 mostly ex-communist eastern European states last year without a constitution, but French officials said he was not going back on existing commitments.

Romania and Bulgaria are set to join the bloc and Turkey will open membership negotiations later this year.

The summit was widely seen as a test of whether the enlarged Union can move forward after "No" votes, or whether political rivalries among weakened leaders will leave it in limbo.

The dollar was close to nine-month highs against the euro, the EU's single currency, as investors watched nervously, uneasy about the political future of the bloc.

To some, a "pause for reflection" could be the signal to cancel risky votes and even consign the treaty to history.

"I think many countries which are planning referendums will say they will postpone them," Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson told reporters, adding that Sweden would set aside its own parliamentary ratification, which had been due in December.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw went further, saying: "That will mean that the prospects of reviving it get less and less the longer the period of time."

Britain came under pressure to surrender at the summit some of its cherished rebate to enable a deal on the EU budget. But Persson said differences on financing the bloc were too wide to bridge and forecast there would be no agreement.

The battle on the 2007-2013 budget will be waged on Friday and wrangling could spill into Saturday if leaders decide it is worth trying for a deal.

As in any family, fights about money are often the toughest, especially when there are suddenly more mouths to feed, as is the case in one that expanded from 15 to 25 countries last year.

Schroeder, fighting to cap spending to which Germany contributes most, said there was no excuse for London's annual refund, worth 5.1 billion euros ($6.15 billion) this year.

Straw rejected Luxembourg's offer of freezing the rebate for the next seven years at its pre-enlargement level of 4.6 billion euros, linked to a promise of a future review of farm spending.

"The rebate is fully justified and if necessary we will use the veto," he said. *Reuters*

Police seek motive for hostage crisis

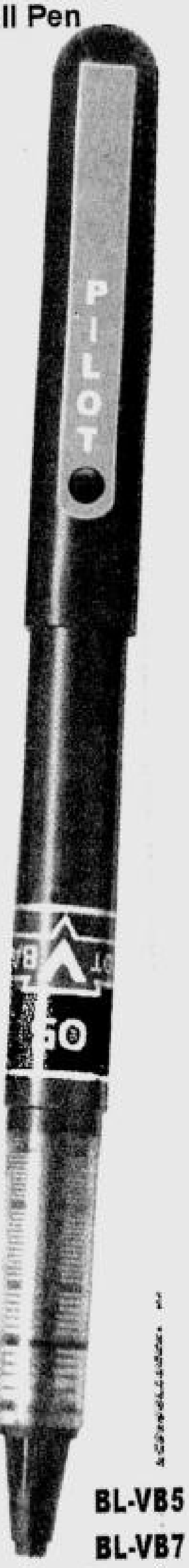
SIEM REAP, Cambodia—Police were interrogating four men Friday who took dozens of nursery school students hostage and silenced a crying 2-year-old Canadian boy by shooting him in the head, as counselors began helping victims and their families deal with the trauma.

The masked gunmen stormed the international school in the northwestern town of Siem Reap Thursday morning, herding a teacher and about 30 children aged from 2 to 6 years old into a classroom. They demanded money, weapons and a vehicle.

Police say the men, all in their early 20s, wanted to extort money from the foreigners and well-off Cambodians whose children attend the school near the famed Angkor Wat temple complex—the biggest tourist attraction in this impoverished country.

Ou Em, head of criminal police division in Siem Reap, said police plan to charge the suspects with "illegal detention of persons and kidnapping for ransom."

He said the four are expected to appear in court Saturday. *AP*



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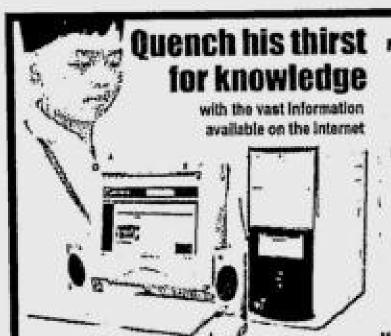

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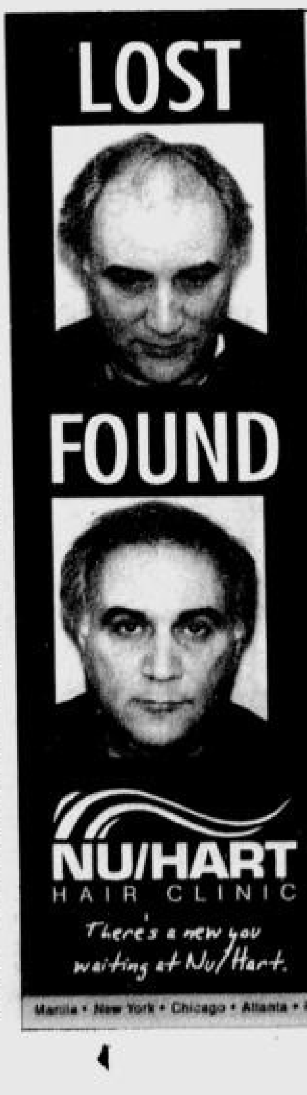

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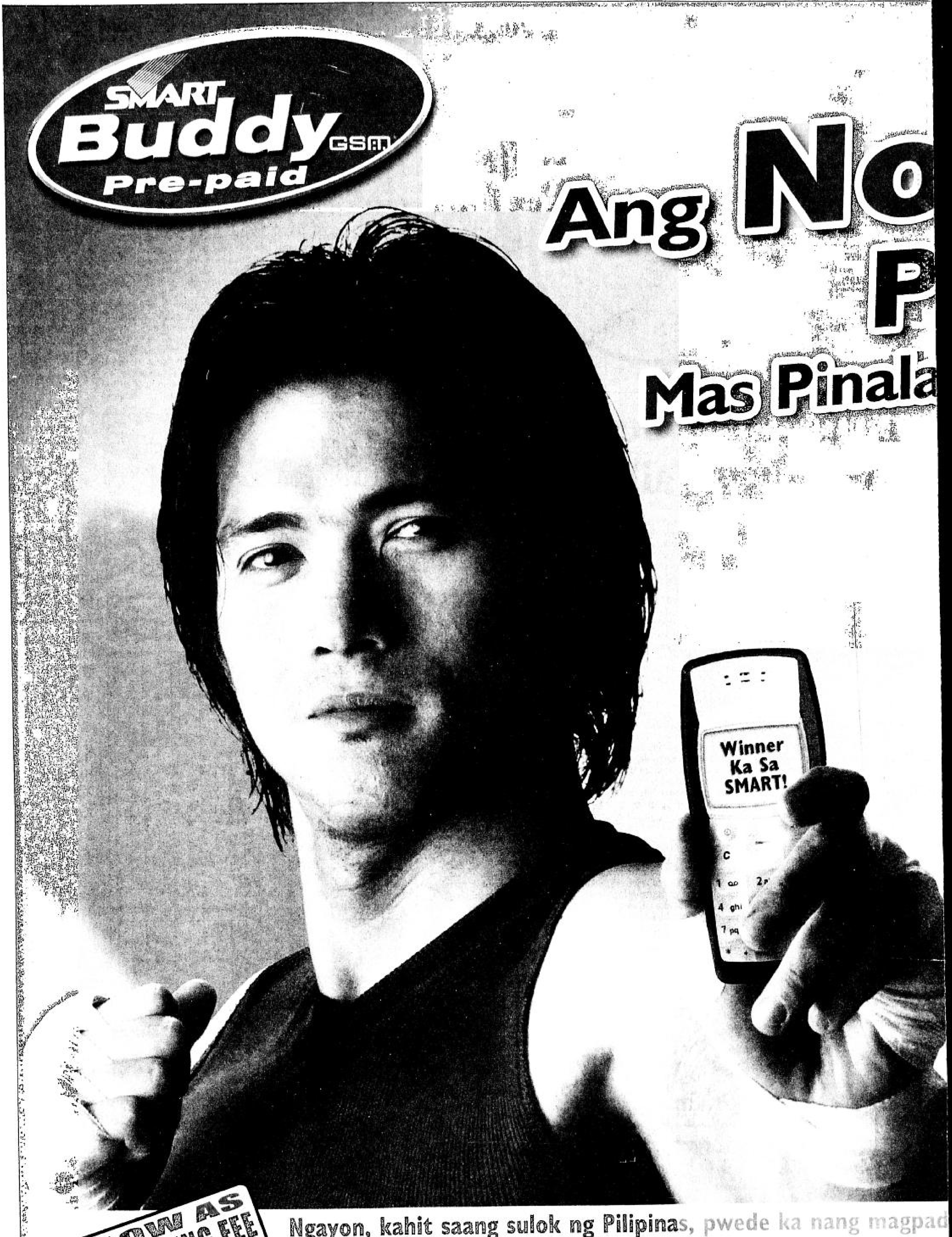
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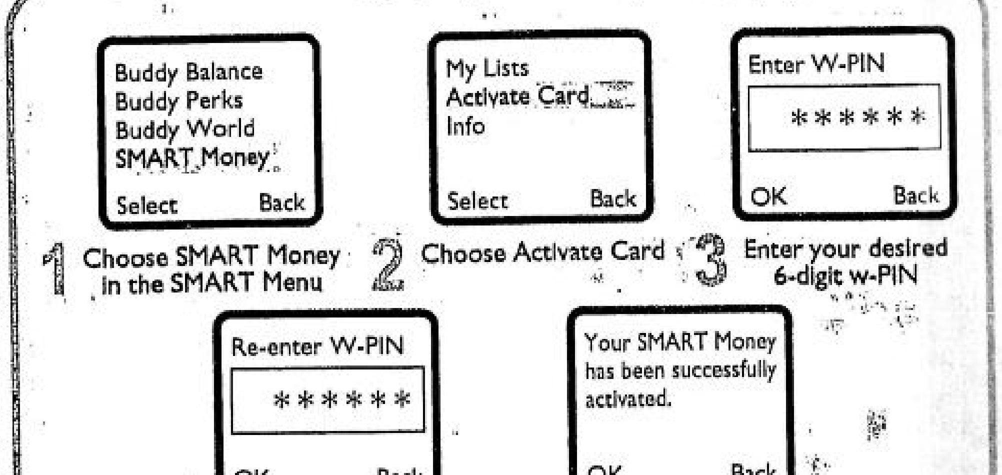
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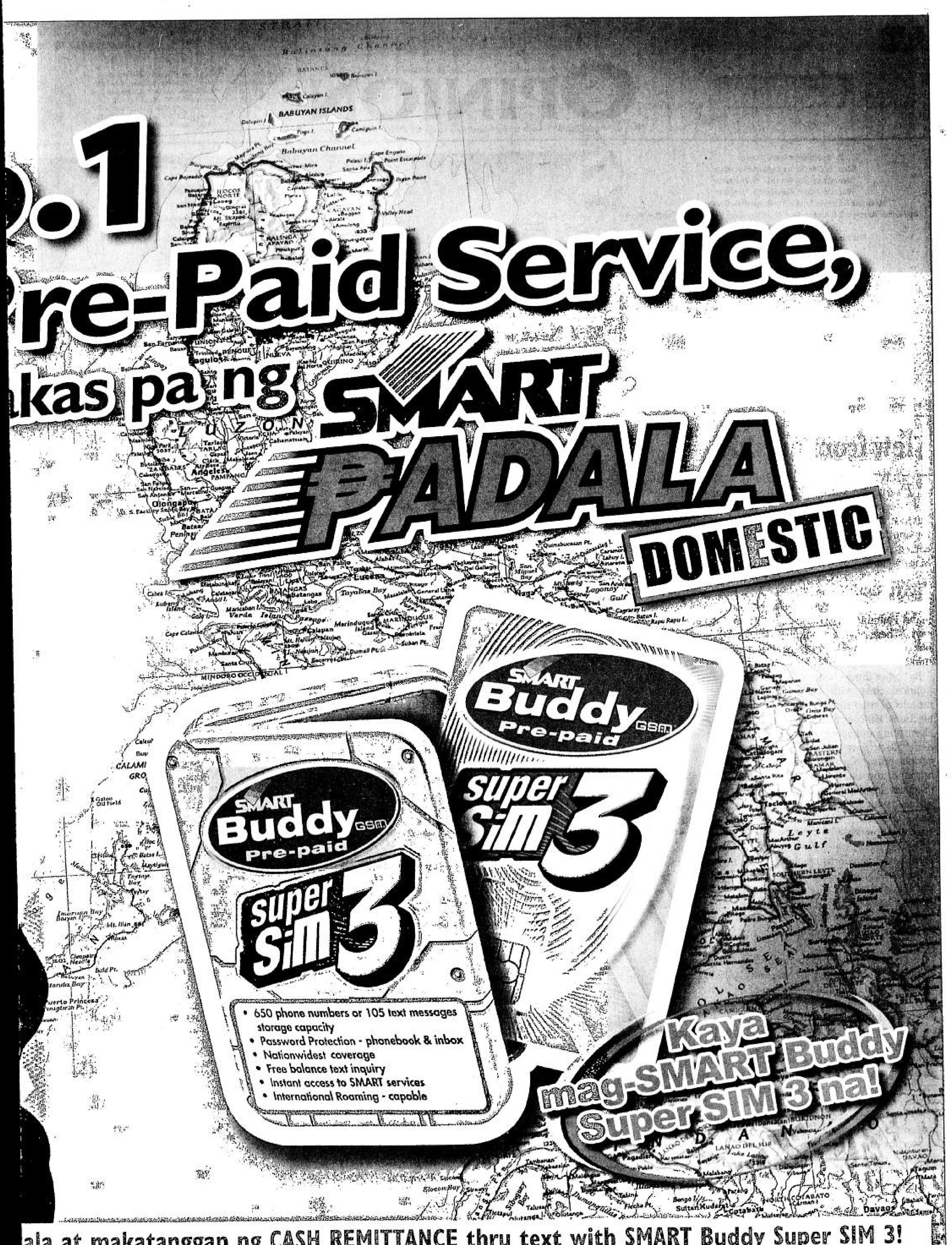

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OPINION

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View from outside

EDITORIAL

VIEWED from the inside by Filipinos, the country has sunk into a deep political crisis from which there seems to be no exit. This is a pessimistic outlook, but foreign observers, who care about the Philippines, offer another perspective from which to understand the current turmoil rocking the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

One such observer of the Philippine scene is Dr. Ronald Meinardus, resident representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a German institution, in Manila. He says, "These days, the political class in the Philippines is not concerned with governing, but preoccupied by other things."

By "other things," he is referring to the obsession of the political class with scandal-mongering generated by months of mud-slinging before and after the May 2004 elections. His commentary says that "the opposition is orchestrating and openly calling for the ouster" of the President. "To achieve this goal, GMA's foes have discharged various poisonous attacks, following allegations that her husband, son and brother-in-law are engaged in corrupt practices involving illegal gambling. Audio recordings surfaced which, according to the opposition, substantiate claims the President cheated her way to power in the May 2004 elections.

"As the opposition is not inclined to wait for the next presidential elections five years away, three alternative scenarios of bringing the GMA presidency to a premature end are debated: Resignation, impeachment or a popular uprising supported by the military. With neither the resignation nor impeachment considered realistic options, the extra-constitutional formula has once more come to the forefront."

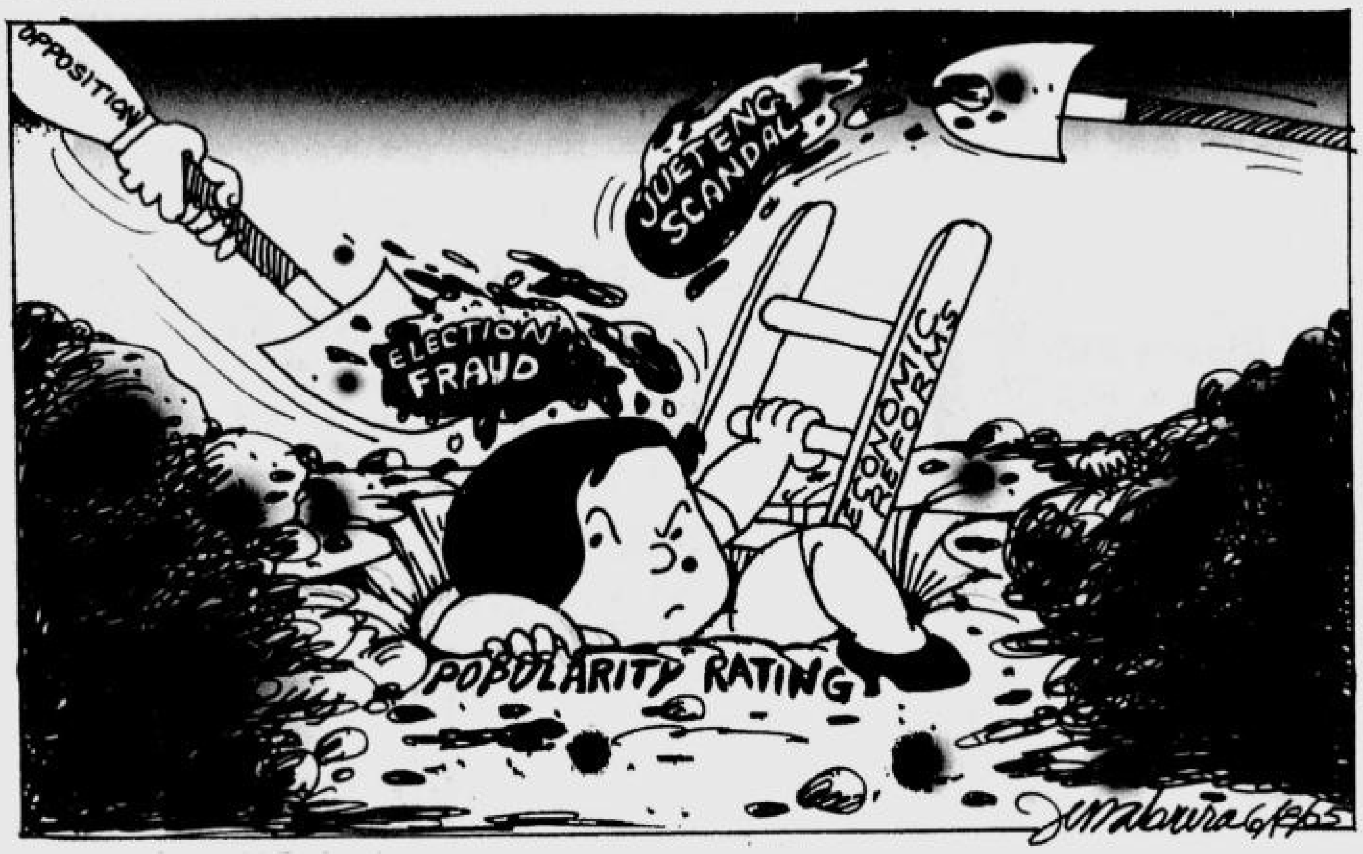
This commentary is by no means partisan, coming as it does from an intellectual representing a liberal-oriented German foundation and a national of a country that has large economic stakes in Philippines, through investments and some forms of economic assistance. And his is not a solitary view. His perspective is shared by a number of foreigners and foreign organizations, which through published reactions to the political instability shaking the country, have been concerned over its economic impact, and the emphasis put by what is called the "political class"—embracing both establishment and opposition—on political conflict rather than on issues concerning economic growth and social programs designed to alleviate poverty, create jobs, boost production and promote economic growth.

The close relationship between politics and economics is undeniable, but what seems to be happening in the Philippines is that politics has gained ascendancy over economics. There is a deeply held belief that the main preoccupation of political leaders is to dig dirt as a fuel to drive political change. Dirt-digging requires less effort than, for example, producing food and goods and services. If the purpose of politics is to dig dirt or explore the septic tank to discover scandals, we will have loads of it.

This obsession to scavenge for dirt to bring about frequent or untimely political change hides the dire economic consequences of political turmoil. Political turmoil has an immediate unsettling impact on the currency and securities markets, as shown by the downward movement of foreign exchange rates and the stock market indices. It has also created uncertainty over the economic direction of the country and the future of its democratic institutions, constantly shaken by the political turmoil.

The report by the National Economic and Development Authority the other day that the economy grew by more than 5 percent during the second quarter—faster than the previous quarter—hardly caught public notice. The news was buried in the inside pages of the newspapers.

As the Arroyo administration struggles for its political life, the crisis diverts its attention and energy from implementing economic policies and programs now in place. The crisis has left the nation partly paralyzed. And sadly there is hardly any sign that it will blow over any time soon.



Pretended unconcern

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

FIVE committees of the House of Representatives are calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to comment on the tapes revealed by former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong directly implicating her in a massive irregularity that made her appear to have won the last presidential election by a million votes. With the rest of the nation also expecting her to react to this serious charge, which on its face appears to be valid on the strength of the similarity of her voice with the one on the tape, and particularly because she has not seen fit to deny the authenticity of the tape to date, the beleaguered President faces one of the toughest decisions in her political life.

Obviously, she cannot admit that she is the "ma'am" speaking on that tape and ordering an obedient Gary or Garci to falsify the election records in Mindanao to make her win by an overwhelming vote against Fernando Poe Jr. Such an admission would be a virtual confession that she is not the legitimate President of the Philippines because the higher vote she obtained against her opponent was manipulated by an obedient minion .expert in election anomalies.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye originally identified the voice on the tape as President Arroyo's but later recanted and said he was mistaken. That mistake may cost him his job later. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, probably learning from Bunye's experience, is more cautious and says the voice is an imposture and not the President's. Senate President Franklin Drilon, also a lawyer and loyal too to GMA, advances the opinion—prematurely, I believe, as he may preside at the trial if the President is impeached—that the tape is inadmissible evidence because it is the result of an illegal wiretap.

Ms Arroyo may, if she chooses, maintain her silence (let us not over-use "deafening silence") and invoke her right to be silent and the presumption of innocence although she is not yet under investigation or prosecution. In addition to the above-named officials, there are other persons in the government, and those who want to be in the government, who are only too eager to deny she is the woman on the tape but an impostor paid to imitate and inculpate her.

But such action, or inaction, will not sit well with the people, who will want something definite from her in the form of an abject admission or an angry denial. Silence may be taken as a confession; a failure to deny is often considered an implied admission. The longer Ms Arroyo does nothing to resist the suspicions swirling around her, the more believable they will become in the public mind, especially with the opposition exerting every effort, above or below the belt, to give them credence.

If she has not yet done so as this article goes to press, I think what President Arroyo should do is to face the issue squarely. She is not gaining much public sympathy by appearing to be suffering unjustly from what she calls the unfair attacks against her injured innocence. Her opponents, the media, and the people in general are not moved by her crocodile tears and want her to take a definite stand against the accusations against her. She should act more like the Iron President she is called by her flatterers instead of lamenting like a cry baby over "the sorrows of a mother" as she describes her present plight.

And since, as already supposed, she cannot admit that she is the unworthy woman in the tape ordering the outrage of suffrage and the falsification of the true will of the electorate in 2004, the only thing she can do is challenge the genuineness of the tape and denounce it as a criminal invention. She should say definitely that the voice is not hers but a clever imitation by a mercenary pretender. She may even swear on the Bible that she is telling the Gospel truth although many will remember that she also promised under oath that she would not run for the presidency in 2004 but did.

Her opponents may produce technological evidence, from foreign and impartial investigators, that the voice prints on the tape are hers, but it will be easy to present her own technical evidence to the contrary. This won't be difficult, given her available resources. Scientific evidence may be countered with other scientific evidence, and it is anybody's guess which of them is the more reliable. Experts are a dime a dozen and accessible to either side for the highest fee.

As her ultimate defense, her favorite law office, which has replaced Marcos' lawyers during the dictatorship in the affection of our courts, can invoke Drilon's advance argument that the purloined tape cannot be admitted as evidence against their client because it was obtained in violation of the Anti-Wire Tapping Act. The Senate, sitting as the high court of impeachment if ever it should be convened, cannot disregard its own law.

At any rate, the need now is for Ms Arroyo to act unequivocally, one way or the other, upon the issue of the tell-tale tape. For her to feign indifference to it as if it does not exist, when it does exist and demands to be resolved, would be conduct unbecoming the President of the Philippines.

GMA's options

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has four options on the wiretapping issue:

(a) She can stonewall on the matter, refusing to answer and taking an "above it all" posture, labeling the accusations as attempts at destabilization, cite her accomplishments and hope that people will eventually forget the incident.

(b) Step down with grace, without admitting culpability, and do everything in her power to help save the republic, and eventually be recognized for her statesmanship.

(c) Deny that hers is the voice in the conversation, with the National Bureau of Investigation and other government agencies saying that there is really no way to authenticate any of the tapes since they have all been tampered with.

(d) Admit that hers is the voice in the conversations but say that she called Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano only as a concerned candidate, and not to carry out a conspiracy to manipulate the results. After all, candidates call Comelec commissioners all the time to ask about election matters. She may even cite calls to other commissioners to express the same concern that her votes are protected. She can then apologize for any impropriety because she also happened to be a sitting President, ask for the people's understanding and follow it up with a program of major reforms, working with the opposition.

She is now on mode (a). But if the tapes are authentic and it is her voice on them (which appears to be the case), it will not go away (repetition in texts and cell phones of her "Hello, hello Garci" put "legs" on the issue, as PR people would say). Eventually, she will be held accountable.

It is unlikely that she will resort to scenario (b) and adopting option (c) would be too risky, given technology that could prove her a liar.

Even if she manages to hang on under (a) or (c), she will not be an effective leader. While she may even get support from some businessmen (the latter talk long-term but are really short-sighted), a damaged presidency and weakened democratic institutions will spell disaster for the economy in the long-run.

Her best bet may be scenario (d), even if she did commit an impeachable offense. This is the cynical view, given "people power fatigue," the difficulty of explaining that there are nuances in conversations that admit of more serious implications, and the lack of credibility of politicians in general and specific personalities in particular who are perceived to be alternative leaders. People just might consider an apology for an impropriety sufficient so that they can avoid making critical political decisions that, from experience, do not amount to anything in terms of giving them a better life. An impeachment would also be perceived as an exercise in futility, given the legal technicalities that can be invoked and her political dominance of Congress.

Moreover, people know that the sad state of our democratic institutions cannot be attributed to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo alone. Cory Aquino was the only one who was single-minded about restoring and strengthening them, perhaps even to the extent of missing opportunities on economic and social development. Every president after her contributed to their weakening. That is why Ms Arroyo might get support if she asks for forgiveness and undertakes a dramatic and believable effort to be the reformist leader the country is waiting for, even at the expense of jailing members of her family or political allies. She can follow the example of Anwar Sadat who allowed his brother, who had once saved his life, to be prosecuted (going after an Arthur Yap for tax evasion is not the same).

What about the tough questions on such details like, who bugged Garcillano's telephone? The likely culprit is the military (Isafp). Which leads to: who authorized the illegal act? If the President had anything to do with it (to keep Garcillano "honest"), she committed an impeachable offense. If she didn't, then there should be a formal investigation to find out who did. In any case, her administration should try to find out who leaked the tapes. That may be the "destabilization" move that should be cause for worry.

Unfortunately, none of this is happening. Are people willing to let these issues pass, on the promise that the government in due time will get to the bottom of what really happened?

Her supporters say that if the President had something to do with the bugging, she would not be stupid enough to call "Garci." That seems logical, except that we know the President to be a "hands-on" executive who made phone calls on live television to subordinates either to give orders or even scold them. Worse, it could be that she fully believed that the tapes would never become public. Nixon made a similar mistake on the Watergate tapes.

But even with all that, she may still get the people to overlook her shortcomings if she can prove that she really won the elections anyway—with the numbers to show that even if her margins in Muslim Mindanao were given to FPJ, even if the questioned COCs during the presidential canvas were likewise awarded to FPJ, she would still have won, albeit by a much smaller margin. Perhaps that would be enough for a public sick to death of the political circus and unwilling to think more deeply about the broader implications and consequences to our democratic institutions of the "incident of the taped conversations."

There goes our Strong Republic, our Hard State, fading further away.

Political turmoil dampens investor interest

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN A RECENT speech, President Macapagal-Arroyo sought to explain the concerted attacks against her by saying that "phase 1" of her economic reforms is already finished, and her political enemies are aware that once "phase 2" takes off, there's no stopping the country's economic progress. This, she said, her enemies don't want. I heard a similar analysis not too long ago from Speaker Jose de Venecia.

I tried to see if that was just braggadocio from GMA and her chief House ally, so I recently attended the briefing conducted by Standard Chartered Bank for potential investors seeking to understand today's global economic and financial picture. In the past years, I have made it a point to listen to the annual briefing on the Asian economic scene conducted yearly by Mike Moran, Standard Chartered's Hong Kong-based regional economist. It felt good to realize that despite the political turmoil sweeping Metro Manila, economic indicators paint an increasingly positive picture—as gleaned from the neutral eyes of foreign analysts.

The question is, with the political turmoil stirred by the opposition and the Left, will things continue to look up? Probably not.

* * *

Moran stressed that the outlook from our credit agencies is "slowly improving," and that continued economic reforms could lead to an upgrade at the end of the year. He cited the passage of the VAT law, the increased revenues generated by the BIR and Customs in the past four months and government's efforts to bring down expenditures. The result, he said, is a smaller budget deficit, and in fact it may be possible to have, as the government predicts, a balanced budget by 2008 or 2009. Moran stressed that the RP economic picture looks "very healthy" and the government is moving in the right direction, at least in the management of its external debt. He noted that after a long period of disinterest, foreign investors are beginning to take renewed interest in RP because of its "strong reform play," encouraged by the higher credit upgrading that pulls in more (investment) flows.

But the analyst also emphasized that this investor interest is conditioned on continued reforms. He said the market sentiment remains sensitive to the "political mood" and that stability remains on top of the investors' priority list. He pointed out that the peso could strengthen to P54 to the dollar, depending on the political stability, although the word in the business grapevine is that it could even rise to P45 to the dollar by year's end if things go well politically.

* * *

Moran warned, however, that the next 18 months may be difficult as they are bound to be affected by the slowdown of the US economy and the problems of various currencies, with the possible exception of the Japanese yen, which is stronger now. But he also stressed that the difficult times are common to the other Asian economies.

This is good to keep in mind. The business community ought to exert pressure on politicians seeking to destabilize our country to stop all attempts to destroy the gains we have made. As Moran put it, RP has again entered the investment picture: foreign investors are beginning to take a renewed interest in the country, thanks to reforms that have been put in place by a partnership between the executive and legislative branches. *Husto na sana ang* political turmoil.

* * *

Last Sunday, on the dzRH program that Cecile Alvarez and I co-host, we asked Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina to tell us about the reforms he has been making in that agency. The BIR and the BOC have provided government the increased revenues that analyst Moran, in turn, credits for the progressively shrinking budget deficit. As Lina, who had 31 years of experience as top honcho of Fed Ex before joining the government, explained it, the BOC's target collection this year is P150 billion, which represents a 16 to 20 percent increase from last year's (the BIR's target revenues are five times bigger). From GMA's recent statements, she seems quite pleased that these two revenue-generating agencies seem to be hitting their mark. The BOC's revenues rose 18 percent year on year last May, despite a broad decline in imports that month, and Lina attributes this to a number of reforms.

* * *

One is curbing smuggling, including the petty smuggling by balikbayans and OFWs at the country's 16 ports and about 10 sub-ports. (Lina discourages balikbayans and OFWs from lugging goods from abroad, reminding them of the stiff $75 to $100 additional charge per overweight box. He advises them to buy their *pasalubong* at the local duty free shops.) The BOC got into the news recently when it slapped a case against a big petroleum firm following the discovery that it was diverting to various commercial entities outside the oil imports it was allowed to bring in without tariff. It enjoyed this special arrangement as it was supposed to sell the oil only to ships involved in banana export, as a way to encourage the industry. Moves against smuggling in Customs find a counterpart in the BIR's high profile move against celebrity tax evaders, and now even a Cabinet member and his family.

* * *

Another reform Lina installed was to put BOC personnel on 24-hour, seven-day duty weekly, instead of the old eight-hour duty. This way, firms dealing with the BOC do not suffer delay in the processing of their papers, which translates into lower storage costs and, in turn, cheaper goods. Lina also points out that the Lateral Attrition Law passed by Congress last year, which he likes to call the "Enhancement Law," has greatly encouraged Customs personnel to collect revenues. Under this law 15 percent of collections above the assigned target will be distributed to them as added compensation. But if they fail to meet their targets, they could be dismissed.

Parallel cases

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"NO WONDER the Pakistani government can't catch Osama bin Laden. It is too busy harassing, detaining—and now kidnapping—a gang-rape victim for daring to protest and for planning a visit to the United States," a columnist for The New York Times wrote earlier this week.

The columnist was referring to the case of Mukhtaran Bibi, or Mukhtar Mai, who was sentenced by a tribal council in 2002 to be gang-raped in punishment for the transgression of her teenage brother. His crime? Offending a powerful clan by having an affair with a young female member of the family.

Mukhtar Mai leaped to the headlines of the world's media when she demanded the prosecution of her rapists, one of whom was the brother of the young woman Mukhtar's brother had wooed.

After being raped by four men, Mukhtar Mai was then forced by the village elders to walk home "nearly naked in front of a jeering crowd." Tradition demanded that after such humiliation, Mukhtar Mai should kill herself. But she decided to fight back and with the help of a local Islamic leader haled her rapists and the council members to court, and six of them were eventually convicted. Moreover, Mukhtar Mai, who before then had been an illiterate laborer's daughter, set up a shelter for abused women and ran two primary schools and became a popular speaker on issues ranging from gender-based violence to empowerment of women, as well as a powerful symbol for women around the world.

* * *

BUT hers was not a total victory. After a US group invited Mukhtaran Bibi to give a series of talks on the status of Pakistani women, "the Pakistani government went berserk," to use the words of the enraged columnist.

Authorities ordered her put on house arrest and a day later, a Friday when courts in Pakistan do not normally hold sessions, a court ordered 12 men connected with her case released, apparently as a warning. When she continued to communicate with her supporters, her land line was cut. When she continued to use her cell phone, police burst into her home and hauled her off to an undisclosed location.

Human rights lawyers who rushed to Mukhtaran Bibi's home learned after a few days that she had been taken to Islamabad, "furiously berated and told that President Pervez Musharraf was very angry with her." She was then detained at a secret location and barred from contacting anyone, including her lawyer.

Still, this story has a happy ending—for now. After the US government protested Mukhtaran Bibi's illegal detention, the Pakistani government lifted travel restrictions, freeing her to visit the US and push through with her lecture tour.

The Washington Post reported that Mukhtaran Bibi is expected to speak next week in Washington, D.C. and five other cities.

* * *

KAREN Vertido's case may not exactly match the horrific circumstances of Mukhtaran Bibi's (but then, how are we and who are we to measure the relative gravity of trauma that rape survivors go through?), but there are enough parallels to warrant discussing the two cases side by side.

Like Mukhtaran Bibi, Karen was punished for being raped, or rather, for making her rape charges public, long before the verdict on her accused rapist was handed down. Before she sued the businessman nine years ago, she had a professionally fulfilling career and a happy family life. Afterwards, she became the Davao media's "flavor of the month," and in large part the local papers and radio commentators went down hard on her. It came to the point that she could no longer go to the market or grocery because people would point and whisper. Because her husband Dan's work is in Davao, theirs became a commuter marriage when she decided to move to Manila to be closer to her parents. Her children's schooling was interrupted, and the entire family, including her parents and siblings, are still trying to cope with the emotional fall-out of both the rape and trial, as well as the recent acquittal of the accused.

And like the Pakistani rape survivor, Karen is now being silenced. In a joint statement signed by judges of the regional trial courts and municipal trial courts of Davao City, the magistrates expressed their "collective condemnation of losing litigants and those allied with them in engaging in publicized tirades against the honor, integrity and competence of the judge that decided the case against them."

* * *

THE STATEMENT is obviously in reference to the reporting and commentary on Karen's case. Among the signatories is Judge Virginia Hofilena-Europa, the fourth and final judge to adjudicate the case of "Republic of the Philippines vs Jose Custodio."

Judges, so the statement went, are "helpless against a trial by publicity." But when a trial proceeds on factors other than the merits of the case, how is a victim supposed to fight back? Was Karen, like Mukhtaran Bibi, expected to commit suicide, even if only metaphorically, by keeping quiet and accepting the injustice done to her?

This column has already discussed the frailties of Europa's decision, especially how she discarded wholesale expert testimony on Karen's state of mind at the time of the assault and immediately after. But it might be worth mentioning here that on the morning the decision was to be handed down, when no one was supposed to know how the case would turn out, Custodio already had a prepared statement distributed to local media in which he proclaimed that he was now "vindicated." He also was reportedly able to fly out of Davao and then out of the country that same evening.

How was he able to secure a valid passport and visa and book his flight when he was supposed to be in prison, facing capital punishment? Or did he have early information that he would soon be a free man?

The legend of Aglal-lalaki

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BEFORE THE COMING of the Spaniards, a *baknang* of Ilocos, having dissipated his inheritance in orgies of excess, drink and useless quarrels, fell into slavery and was deprived of his freedom by the council of the *amaen ti ili, adipen o tagabu* and given to his creditor. The latter was an avaricious *baknang* who sent him to the abyss of his perdition, having envied his goods and enticed him with many loans of gold that he wasted.

For this to be understood, it has to be explained that in those days there were in the Ilocos four classes of persons: the *principales* of the town who had never been slaves and who were called *babaknang* (plural) or *baknang* (singular), among whom were included the *amaen iti ili* (fathers of the town), old men considered ministers or consultants of the rulers, the *agturay* or *ari* which signified master although there really were no kings in the Philippines (even if later some people either thought they were or wanted to be; come to think of it, some still do and others act as though they were). Then there were the *timauas, kabalangay o kailian* who were free, the *katalonan* (or *alipin namamahay* in Tagalog) who rendered some service to their masters, and finally real slaves called *adipen*, who were inferior to the *katalonan adipin sa guiguilir* among the Tagalogs.

The prodigal *baknang* could not endure his cruel fate and died shortly after. His first born son then took his place as a slave.

Growing up with the rigors of service, he learned to be strong and persevering in his disgrace. Serenely he worked hard at the labors assigned to him and, with singular resignation, accepted the trials of his ill-starred luck.

This good slave was called Bagbag, which is the name of a useless tree. He was born into slavery and the master of his father gave him that humiliating name since he looked down on his slaves. But even as a young boy, Bagbag changed his master's opinion because he showed bravery in battle with the enemy and was intelligent, skillful and physically strong.

It was a belief in those days that in the event one got dangerously ill it was necessary to change one's name in order to recover. Thus, when Bagbag got sick, the *bailan* or priestess was called in. After striking a blow with a bolo to one of the house posts, she stated solemnly that he ought to be called Aglal-lalaki, a name whose provenance was the same as the god of war, Apo-laki, which meant distinguished in battle.

According to tradition, it was due to the beneficial influence of Apo-Laki that the poor slave recovered. In his illness, he had been attended to very well by Sabong (whose name meant flower), the daughter of his master. Sabong was, of course, beautiful. In her ears, she wore gold earrings in the form of a poisonous viper decorated with eyes of precious stones called *barting*, which was abundant in the Ilocos. Each lobe had two holes for a small earring and a bigger one. She wore many gold chains around her neck, bracelets of gold and ivory called *calombigas* on her arms and rings with stones of great value on her fingers.

She wore blouses of diverse and brilliant colors with short sleeves and a white wide *saya* with pleats that were gathered at the waist and reached her unshod feet, a style known as *salupingping* among the Ilocano women who still wore it at the turn of the 19th century. When she went out, she would wear stoles of red silk or other woven cloths with threads of gold and decorated with rich fringes.

Aside from her beauty. Sabong had a compassionate heart and she took care of Aglal-lalaki when he was sick. Her kindness impressed Aglal-lalaki, who lost no time in showing his gratitude by standing by her side during his free time with his sword in one hand. He was guarding her against the *balaknang* and *aris* from other settlements who were on the look-out for people to kidnap and enslave. Besides he had also fallen in love with her, but she was unaware of it.

During fiestas, Sabong was the object of envy of the other *babaknang* women because she wore garlands of flowers that were unknown to them and resembled painted butterflies, especially the ones that were phosphorescent and shone at night. All of them were dying to know where she got them but could never find out. Aglal-lalaki with his inconceivable audacity would bring them to her from the remote forests of Abra, impenetrable for others who were afraid of dying at the hands of headhunters.

One evening, Sabong asked Aglal-lalaki to accompany her as she gathered flowers of the *dama de noche*. She later asked him further to sing a *dal-lot*.

Seizing the opportunity. Aglal-lalaki declared his love with improvised words. Sabong did not answer although she did not consider it an indiscretion on his part but she was by nature reserved and modest.

It came to pass that one of her *cacique* suitors, embarrassed that his wealth, his personal army and his many slaves could not obtain her love and confident in his great power, attempted in a gathering where Aglal-lalaki was absent to accuse Sabong of carrying on an incestuous relationship with her father. This was the reason, he claimed, that she did not accept any of her rich and adoring suitors.

(La Ilustracion Filipina, 1893. This is not an exact translation and the text has been edited.)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

My balikbayan box

"Ito ang aking balikbayan box. Kahon ng mga alaala, pangyayari at ang aking pang araw araw na pakikipagsapalaran sa dayuhang bansa (This is my *balikbayan* box. A treasure chest of memories, events and my everyday adventures in a foreign land)."**—from a Filipino immigrant's journal**

YOUNG BLOOD

Robertino Lim

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

BALIKBAYAN. A word that describes me, my family and many others. The Tagalog word *balik* means to come back. The word *bayan* refers to a homeland. Together, the words speak of someone returning home. The term refers to those of Filipino ancestry living abroad, including their spouses and children, regardless of nationality.

But the united word carries much more weight than that. It means you left your homeland for an important reason: love, freedom, money, education, dreams. It also means you are coming home for an important reason: nostalgia, family, vacation, relaxation, business to attend to. The reasons vary, but so do the many experiences of those who form our Diaspora.

If you are a balikbayan, you carry with you the experiences of a nomad. You bring the struggles of adjusting to a new culture, the heartbreak of being different from everyone around you and the comfort of finding people with whom you have something in common. You bring your history and everything you have experienced along the way. You are no longer the person who left your homeland years ago.

"I'm going back home." That's what I would say. I didn't really know what that meant when I was younger. The phrase has gained deeper meaning every time I have gone back. To this day, my memories continue to intertwine, adding importance and meaning every time I visit. I recall the faces, scents, emotions, late nights, sunrises, parties, everything. Every time I travel from one home to the other, I find a part of myself that wasn't there before.

My family always packs a balikbayan box. Inside it go clothes, gifts, magazines, letters, chocolates, canned goods, other foodstuffs and anything that fits. The balikbayan box is a customary Filipino all-purpose box that gets filled to the brim, until the sides bulge and it just tips the weighing scale limit. Relatives and friends jockey for space in our boxes every time we head home.

When I was 14, my family and I arrived at the airport with our luggage and balikbayan boxes. I thought of all the things that might happen, all the things I wanted to do. Ruth Mabanglo phrases well my anticipation: "My mind recalls the flight of dreams/ From the land of its birth." My dreaming gets me from the land of my mind's birth through the first leg of the journey. Soon enough, I heard the speakers blaring: "Welcome to Anchorage International Airport."

As we exited the cabin, my mind drifted to home (my actual home, that is) and Ruel de Vera's musings on New York came to mind: "A light rain keeps/ You company/ As you walk/ To the Met/ Amidst a gallery/ Of many turned faces." All I could think of that moment was home, how I rode the subways every day and walked to the Met after class or rehearsal. I thought of how lucky I was, and then, just as quickly as I drifted away, I returned.

In no time, the stewardess announced: "Welcome to Ninoy Aquino International Airport." I retrieved my bags and our balikbayan boxes from the conveyor belt. As soon as we stepped outside the airport, the warmth enveloped me. It was so different from the fluctuating temperatures of New York. The warmth was rewarding, reminding me of where I had been on the last day. I started at home in the most familiar and bustling city in the world. I went near the top of the world and then across the great Pacific. And finally "home" to Manila, with a culture so foreign to me at first, yet so familiar to me today.

After so much travel, all that remained was an exhausting ride to Paco, Manila. The traffic was stifling, but nothing compared to the hours on planes and in airport lounges. Jessica Hagedorn captures the essence of that car ride, "I gaze out the window, take in the half-finished luxury hotels, the rows of cozy sari-sari stores, the lurid splash of billboards!" I saw the children along the roads, "Malnourished children run up to the [car] to press their faces and wares against the window on my side." I couldn't help but look and we exchanged glances as a deep sorrow came over me.

Entering Paco, my father told me it was a village just outside Intramuros. His words got me thinking about history, in general: the people that passed these houses, the feet that walked these streets. I read the street signs that had become familiar from past visits: San Antonio, Paz, Perdigon, Icasiano, and finally Merced. A curt horn honk signaled the housekeepers to open the gate.

I felt like I was walking into the past, into my father's youth. I saw a chair, a photograph and each room, and I pictured it as it was decades ago, as my dad knew it. I thought of all the memories here, the ties my father had to this place. I gained respect for my parents, thinking of all they left behind, and everything they sacrificed to give us a better life in the States. I gave my father and mother a brief embrace, but said nothing. We unloaded our balikbayan boxes and I was ready to enjoy our two weeks' vacation.

This was the first time I would go out on the town with my cousins and those two weeks turned out to be nonstop fun, filled with laughs, hugs, singing, eating, and even some romance. To this day, I say that was the most fun I ever had going "back home."

The holidays passed with much rejoicing, and much sooner than I expected, it was time to return home. We packed another balikbayan box for our return and with it went my memories of the most wonderful fortnight I can remember. I stayed up all night before our early flight home, relishing every moment with my family and friends.

The return trip was much quicker, and I found myself atop the observation deck at Anchorage airport. I looked out onto the horizon and recalled Che Guevara's words about his journey across Latin America:

"A gentle sun illuminated the new day, our day of departure…It is a kind of crossroads; at least in that moment it was for me. I was looking to the future…to what lay beyond."

This was my crossroads, and the balikbayan box was a most useful reminder of where I came from.

Every time I look back, every time I go back, I am more certain that I am transformed each time I travel between homelands. And for every time I find another important part of myself, I am grateful to the places and the people that brought me there. This is my balikbayan box. My treasure chest of memories, experiences and my everyday adventures in my two homelands.

Robertino Lim, 20, is an incoming pre-med sophomore at Vassar College. Aside from writing, he sings and composes his own songs.

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Violation of the rule of law

FORMER CHIEF Justice Andres Narvasa has testified in the Estrada plunder trial that he was privy to the offer of the Arroyo administration to allow Erap to go into exile and escape punishment. The proposal was reportedly made by no less than the justice secretary at the time, Hernando Perez.

This was clearly a case of obstruction of justice attempted by the highest official of the department charged with the enforcement of the laws of the land.

How did the former Supreme Court chief justice, one time the highest official of the judicial department, react to the brazen proposal? These former high officials, charged with the administration of justice, provided in this instance a sorry example of utter disregard of the rule of law: Perez, by his silence; Narvasa, by dereliction of a moral duty. What may be the expected reaction of the rest in the judicial system, including the lawyers, when incidents of conspiracy among the highest judicial authorities occur?

It is sad for the former Supreme Court chief justice to have kept mum on the indecent proposal until now. Narvasa should have exposed it at the time it was made.

What relevance has this criminal conduct of Perez to the case of the people of the Philippines against Estrada? The unseemly conduct of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her justice secretary does not diminish the gravity of the plunder case against Estrada. One cannot see the point of Narvasa's revelation at this late date, although it is a welcome development that the public has become aware of the duplicity of men otherwise held in high esteem for their presumed commitment to justice.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Not this official

I WOULD like to react to the INQUIRER editorial titled "A curious confession" (PDI, 6/2/05), particularly the insinuation that "if the mayors, were getting paid off, can the vice mayors, the councilors, the chiefs of police and the barangay officials be far behind?"

Having served as a barangay chair and concurrently ABC (Association of Barangay Council) president for six years, municipal councilor for nine years, and being the incumbent vice mayor, I have never been and will never be on the payroll of illegal gambling operators.

Despite the many demands and requests from my constituents which I have to satisfy, I can make both ends meet, so to speak, by living an austere life. For example, in going to and from my office in the Sangguniang Bayan, I use a bicycle as a means of transportation. To travel longer distances as when I attend the meetings of the Vice Mayors League of Laguna, which are held in different towns and cities of the province, I ride tricycles, passenger jeeps and buses instead of using a car.

Finally, with all candor and humility, I can look at anybody with a straight face as I have not succumbed to the temptation of receiving *jueteng* money.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

Road defects not main cause

THE REGIONAL office of the Department of Public Works and Highways-Region 10 wishes to make some clarifications on the news item "Northern Mindanao has deadliest roads—DPWH" (PDI, 6/7/05) by Leila B. Salaverria.

While it is true that there were many vehicular accidents in Region 10 during the past 10 months, it is also public knowledge that most of those were caused by human error, although some by vehicular defects and drug use.

Only 29—the equivalent of 0.03 percent—of the accidents were due to road defects. But the defects were not only on national roads; they were also on barangay, city and provincial roads, and these roads are not under the supervision of the DPWH.

For this reason, we object to the use of the words "deadliest roads—DPWH" in the story's headline. They are misleading and may have given rise to a negative impression in the minds of INQUIRER readers and tourists alike about progressive Northern Mindanao and DPWH-Region 10.

—SINAOLAN T. MACARAMBON,
Ceso 4 OIC-regional director,
DPWH Region 10,
macarambon.sinaolan@dpwh.gov.ph

I USED the term "deadliest" to refer to Region 10's national roads where the biggest number of deaths (143) from road accidents took place. The region also recorded the biggest number of accidents (849) on national roads in the given time period. Of the 849 accidents, 680 were traced to human error; only 29 were caused by road defects. The figures in my story were based on DPWH records. It was not my intention to malign Northern Mindanao and the DPWH office there.

—LEILA B. SALAVERRIA,
PDI reporter

Tuguegarao school now qualified to offer nursing

THIS is in reference to the 23 nursing schools that the INQUIRER repeatedly reported in the past as subject to closure, either because of poor performance in the board examinations or for failure to comply with the minimum requirements of the Commission on Higher Education.

One of these 23 schools was our school, the Cagayan Colleges in Tuguegarao City. Of the 23, only four have already qualified to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing. We are one of the four. The rest of the 23 have either withdrawn their application or were subjected to re-evaluation.

Mentioning our school in the news items as one of the problematic schools (before CHED approved our application) was understandable, considering the fact that readers had to be informed and warned of schools that do not have the necessary permit to offer the nursing degree.

However, I do not understand why, after the CHED granted us the initial permit to operate a nursing school, the INQUIRER's follow-up reports on the matter did not mention the names of the schools that were able to comply with CHED requirements. It would have been fair if the INQUIRER had mentioned in its follow-up stories our school as one of those that have been authorized to offer the nursing course.

Regardless of this sentiment, the institution wants to assure the INQUIRER that we still have our full trust in your prestigious and widely read newspaper.

—VICTOR V. PEREZ,
president,
Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao,
3500 Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

Lost national treasure

MY wife Mila and I join former press secretary and columnist Teodoro C. Benigno's beloved wife Luz, his son Marc and his daughter Nena and the nation he loved in mourning his death.

Benigno's great love for this country showed in the incisive and knowledgeable way he wrote, and in his unforgettable nuggets of wisdom and humor.

—NICASIO G. VALDERRAMA,
2 Scouter Ojeda St.
cor. Mother Ignacia, QC

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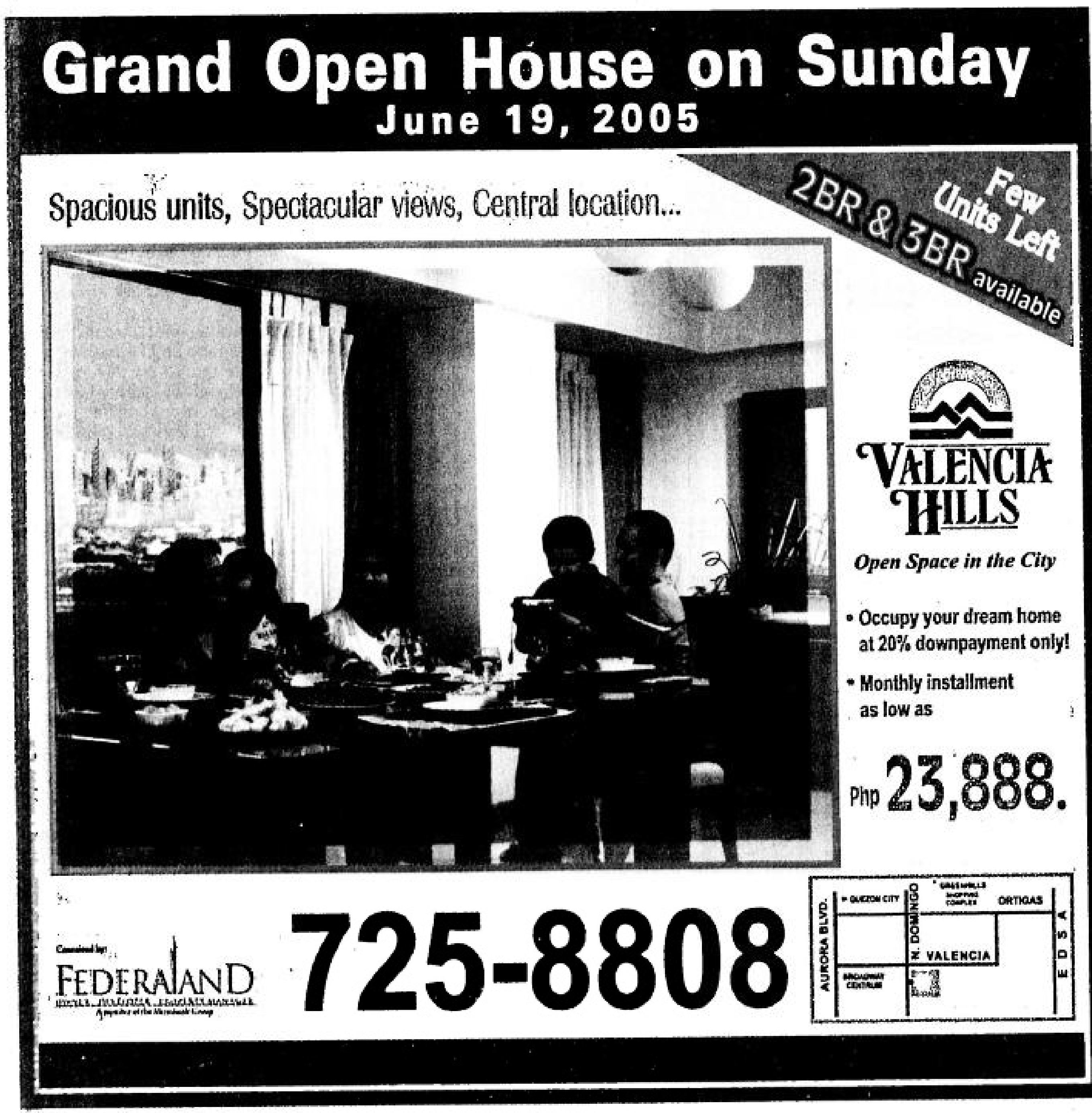
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Palparan calls in 400 more soldiers

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATBALOGAN, Samar—In yet another effort to crush the insurgency in Eastern Visayas, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division based here, personally welcomed on Thursday more than 400 soldiers who will be deployed to the three Samar provinces.

Palparan said the troop augmentation would be a "big help" in his campaign to "finish off" the insurgency in Eastern Visayas within his target of six months to a year.

The deployment of the battalion immediately drew criticisms from Danilo Ramos, secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

With the additional forces, Ramos said they expected "further escalation of atrocities against the people of Eastern Visayas."

Palparan, who is accused by different human rights and militant groups of human rights violations in the course of his campaign, said that the soldiers would be assigned to areas where there are New People's Army rebels.

"They will operate in all the three provinces of Samar. They will surely be a big help in our campaign. I am this decided to eliminate the (insurgency) problem in the region in the shortest possible time," Palparan told the INQUIRER.

But while Palparan is determined to end the insurgency in the region, he insisted he still would prefer to end the problem without resorting to armed conflict.

"Hopefully, these people in the armed group will realize that they cannot fight the government. We clearly outnumber them. We want to bring them back to mainstream," he said.

The soldiers, belonging to the 46th Infantry Battalion under the 3rd Infantry Division, are under the command of Lt. Col. Manuel Ramos. They left their base in Barangay Riverside, Bilar, Bohol Wednesday morning and arrived at Pier Dos of this town Thursday at 6 a.m. in two Philippine Navy boats.

Palparan said the troops would be given a month to familiarize with the terrain in the areas where they would be deployed.

PALPARAN

Judge junks man's bid to get back name from dead brother

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DISMISSED!
AARGH!
R.I.P. Victorino de Vera
R.I.P. Victorino de Vera

BAGUIO CITY—A judge here has thrown out a two-year-old suit filed by a man, who decided to recover his name from his dead brother, an American navy pensioner, after 25 years.

But the petitioner, Victorino de Vera, a 66-year-old plant mechanic, died after a heart attack in October last year.

His death compelled Judge Amado Caguioa of the regional trial court here to dismiss the case based on the arguments that De Vera's crusade ended with his death from a heart attack.

In 2003, the INQUIRER ran a story about De Vera and his campaign to recover his name from Valeriano de Vera, who lived the best part of his life under the assumed identity of his brother.

Using his older brother's name, Valeriano joined the US Navy on May 24, 1963, served as Navy steward for the best of his career, retired with a full pension, and died of kidney complications in June 1988.

Victorino claimed that he only discovered the duplicity 13 years ago, but that his family convinced him to keep the secret for a few more years.

He finally went to court to correct the recorded death of his brother, who is still registered under his name in the local civil registry. The death certificate of "Victorino 'Billy' de Vera" had been affecting his personal transactions, Victorino told the INQUIRER in 2003.

Caguioa dismissed his suit on Dec. 9, 2004. The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the decision only on Friday.

De Vera's heirs are, however, pressing on. Aurea, one of Victorino's daughters, said they had asked Caguioa to reconsider his decision because Victorino is now the beneficiary of two death certificates. She said this has legal ramifications on the pieces of property of two families.

Victorino's case has become a legal curiosity among lawyers here.

"His case was important because it inspires many legal precedents about assumed identities. It's a pity it was dismissed," said one lawyer.

Victorino also embroiled the US government in his case. To set the record straight, Victorino had advised the US Embassy about the alleged fraud that was committed involving his brother's identity. This had offended Valeriano's family.

But the US Embassy refused to act on Victorino's admission.

Dr. Molly Abiog, counsel of Valeriano's widow, Lolita Villanueva-de Vera, asked Caguioa in November 2004 to dismiss Victorino's complaint.

She said the suit was "personal to [Victorino]."

Cops say Koreans behind death of compatriot

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An argument with his compatriots over a hefty sum of money might have led to the death of a Korean national last week, police investigating the case said yesterday.

According to Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, the initial investigation of police showed that victim Gwak Nho Hak, 53, withdrew money from his automated teller machine (ATM) card hours before he was found dead in a grassy area in Alfonso, Cavite last Saturday.

He said both ATMs were registered under international accounts.

"We are now checking with the respective banks how much money was actually taken from the accounts a few days before the victim disappeared and was found dead," Versoza told the INQUIRER.

Versoza said they are now certain that his fellow Koreans were behind Gwak's death.

He said they got information that some of the victim's Korean friends owed him a certain amount of money.

He added that before his death, Gwak, who has been staying in the country for nine years, was awaiting a hefty sum which his parents was due to send him.

He said the money was part of the victim's inheritance from his parents.

"The suspects knew that Mr. Gwak has money," Versoza said.

He said they have already invited several of the victim's Korean friends for questioning. He said once police gather evidence, they would file a robbery with homicide case against the suspects.

Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Cavite police director, assured expatriates working at the Special Economic Zone in Cavite that they are safe to go around the province. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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John Hay developer gets new TRO against takeover

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay has obtained another 72-hour court order restraining the Bases Conversion Development Authority from enforcing a government takeover of the former American baseland until it submits to an independent arbitration.

Baguio Executive Judge Iluminada Cabato-Cortes issued the restraining order on Friday after the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) petitioned the court to compel BCDA to agree to a hearing by the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center.

Cortes earlier issued a 72-hour restraining order against government tax agencies to prevent them from collecting CJHDevco's back taxes.

Lawyer Lyssa Pagano-Calde, BCDA spokesperson and operations manager of BCDA estate manager John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), said the government officially terminated CJHDevco's lease on April 30 when the firm failed to address a final demand letter on its debts.

Cortes' June 17 TRO barred BCDA and JHMC from implementing its termination order. She also prohibited the government from entertaining new investors, and from discussing payment schemes with businesses operating inside Camp John Hay.

But the BCDA "does not recognize the new temporary restraining order," Calde said.

She said Republic Act 7227, which created the BCDA, prescribes that BCDA can only be compelled by a restraining order from the Supreme Court.

Also on Friday, BCDA announced it was preparing a fraud case against Fil Estate chair Robert John Sobrepeña, who also chairs CJHDevco.

CJHDevco is owned by the Fil Estate-Penta Capital consortium, which assumed the John Hay lease from winning bidder, Manuela Lands, in 1996.

Calde said the government has uncovered "elements of fraud" in the way CJHDevco undertook the development of the John Hay special economic zone.

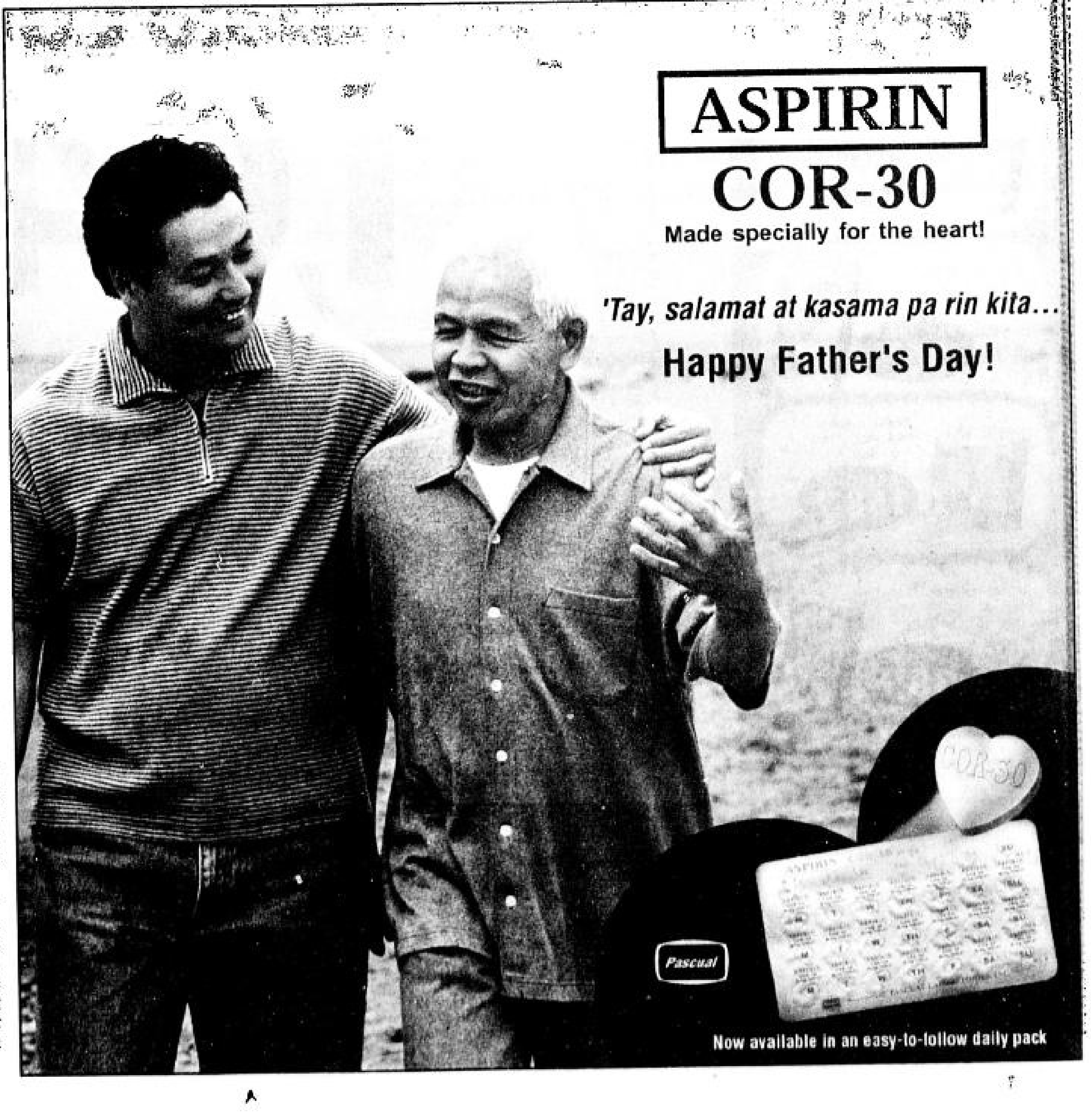
The charges will not implicate any government official, she said.

This new suit will dovetail a collection suit they also plan to file to coerce Sobrepeña into abiding by a 2003 negotiated pay scheme for the firm's P2.3 billion back rentals and outstanding interest payments, she said.

Asked why BCDA only applied pressure on CJHDevco after the Supreme Court ruling that nullified the firm's tax incentives, Calde said: "(Government has become) hardline because it is fraudulent [for CJHDevco] not to pay the government during these hard times."

Cortes granted the firm a 72-hour order restraining the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Customs and the city treasury from collecting from P71 million to P600 million, representing the back taxes of CJHDevco.

She acted on CJHDevco's petition for declaratory relief, which asked the court to define the rights of a particular contractual party in dispute situations. Judge Antonio Estevez is hearing CJHDevco's petition. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Kapampangans rally to back Gloria

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Sen. Manuel Lapid, who twice led big prayer rallies in Pampanga when coup plans threatened the Arroyo administration, was a no-show in a rally to support President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday.

Explaining his father's absence, Gov. Mark Lapid said the senator did not come for reasons of propriety.

"He chairs the investigation [on 'jueteng'] so it is improper for him to come here. The views he may express here may be wrongly taken," the young Lapid said.

The elder Lapid heads the Senate committee on games and amusement, which is investigating the allegations that the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, her son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and her brother-in-law Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, had received jueteng payola.

Governor Lapid said the senator's absence did "not mean that he was not supporting the Kapampangan's appeals (for unity, peace and democracy)" amid allegations of election fraud against Ms Arroyo.

The governor also denied reports that his father had left the camp of the administration and had joined the opposition by aligning with Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"My father is the best person to answer that but I don't believe that's true," he said.

Alex Marcelino, the senator's media relations officer, said there was "no Lapid-Lacson alliance."

"*Magkumpare lang sila* (They are just friends)," Marcelino said, adding that Lapid stood in as one of the wedding sponsors of Lacson's son Pampi and actress Jodi Sta. Maria.

Only more than 2,000 people attended the rally. But organizers said the small attendance did not indicate waning support of Kapampangans for Ms Arroyo.

Also absent in the rally was Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, whom Ms Arroyo called a "close adviser." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Time to move on, gov says of Camarines dev't plans

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PILI, Camarines Sur—Camarines Sur is making significant gains in its eco-tourism programs and its bid to establish economic zones amid the national government's support of the province's medium-term economic development plan, the province's governor said.

Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said the quickness with which the national government approved the province's eco-tourism program and ecozone project has contributed to laying the groundwork for its medium-term development program.

From July 2004 to the present, Camarines Sur achieved a 130 percent surplus in rice sufficiency level.

From 1,200 hectares planted to hybrid rice when he assumed office, the area now has reached 8,468 ha, or an increase of 605 percent.

Villafuerte said one of the signs of the national government's support for the province's medium-term economic plan was President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of May 27 this year, the foundation day of the province, as special nonworking holiday.

"Bursting in colors and rhythmic movements and sounds amid fiesta atmosphere for seven days, the Kaogma Festival (foundation week festival) professes to be one of a kind that could draw local and foreign tourists interested in the province's natural vacation sites," he said.

"We are seriously promoting our province using all available promotional tools," said the governor.

He added that investments are also starting to come into the province.

"Some Taiwanese investors are already training their eyes on Camarines Sur," he said.

He said his administration has also set aside 2,650 ha of land in the towns of Caramoan and Presentacion for abaca production in partnership with a private investor, the Isarog Pulp and Paper Co.

The other investment areas, he said, are a 50-hectare land in Pili town for coconut seed production, a planned hog estate and 100 ha of marine area in Ragay for the culture of commercial fish varieties.

The governor said P5 million in low interest loans were also made available for small entrepreneurs.

Infrastructure, he said, was also being improved with the rehabilitation of 15 bridges, footbridges and culverts, and the construction of a fish port.

Social services were also delivered with the construction of 200 low-cost houses in Calabanga town.

At least 55 school buildings were also built, said the governor.

"The medium-term plan should propel us to move on," he said.

TRADITION

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A woman uses freshly harvested rice from the Kiangan rice terraces in Ifugao as a headdress. The rice *palay* is the first to be harvested this year by a group seeking to restore the terraces last week. The process of harvesting is communal and is called *ogbu*.

MILF says terror yarn's target is talks

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) shrugged off the claim of a ranking military official in Central Mindanao that some rebels were working with the Abu Sayyaf to carry out bomb attacks in key cities in the region.

Earlier, Col. Alexander Macario, of the 66th Infantry Battalion, and police said the target areas were the cities of Tacurong, Koronadal and General Santos.

Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, police chief for Central Mindanao, ordered police commanders in the cities to go on high alert and implement stringent security measures to thwart any terror attacks.

On Tuesday, the General Santos City police raided a resettlement site in Fatima village after receiving intelligence reports that suspected bombers Jacob Masucat and Norodin Abas were sighted in the area.

The two are being linked to the 2000 and 2004 bomb attacks in General Santos.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the revelation of the bomb plot involving MILF rebels was only aimed at disrupting the peace talks between the government and the separatist group.

"The front has no single breakaway faction. We also have no reason to conspire with Abu Sayyaf bandits or (Nur) Misuari's men," said Kabalu.

Kabalu said both their political and military structures are intact and fully support the peace process.

"Terrorism does not pay and it will not in any way be compatible with the cause and mission of the MILF. The plot revealed by Macario was meant to condition the minds of the people that bomb explosions can happen anytime and that we should be blamed for it," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

2 killed in mishap

BALANGA CITY—A 10-wheel truck loaded with soya beans lost its brakes and plowed through 10 houses on Wednesday in Barangay Cabcaben in Mariveles, Bataan, killing two people and injuring seven others, police said. Killed were Alvin Deala, 35, truck driver, of Magalang, Pampanga; and Mary Jane Sonio, 24, of Barangay Cabcaben. The injured were taken to Bataan General Hospital here. Police said the truck, owned by one Trinidad Gonzales, left the Asian Terminal Inc. at 3 a.m. in Mariveles, where it hauled soya beans for Bulacan. The truck also hit a light van parked on the highway shoulder.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Psy-ops seminar

LUCENA CITY—Forty-two police and military personnel finished on Monday eight days of a psychological operation seminar held at the Philippine National Police Training School 4 in Camp Nakar here. Sponsored by the military's Civil Relations Group-Southern Luzon, the seminar was aimed at making police and military personnel more adept at psychological and propaganda warfare. The participants were trained on how to write news and public information materials, how to be effective speakers and how to use print and broadcast media in information dissemination.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Calasiao High reunion

THE ALUMNI of Calasiao Comprehensive National High School in Calasiao, Pangasinan will have their second grand reunion at the Hyatt Islandia Hotel, San Diego, California on July 2. For details, contact Jerome Estrada (408) 468-1267 (US), Perla Takehana (760) 639-4527 (US), Regina Applegate (951) 587-0982 (US), Dolly Alvarez (619) 470-1673 (US), Ped Guarin (619) 656-9777 (US), Gacuya Viado (619) 428-6448 (US), Manny Paris (619)421-8838 (US), Elvie Aquino (619)9343049 (US), Paul Garcia (619) 4720531 (US), Jessie Menor (619) 4709435 (US). Narciso Chuson, Jr. 0919-2589652 (Calasiao), Cita Goyagoy 0917-8454193 (Manila).

Floods trap people

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Floods submerged a subdivision here on Thursday evening and trapped seven people, most of them children, for several hours. Vice Mayor Luis Malaluan said a heavy downpour about 3 p.m. on Thursday caused the Sarandanan River to swell, flooding low-lying areas of this city, particularly a subdivision at Barangay Poblacion. Malaluan said the water in the subdivision rose to about 5 feet. The trapped residents managed to stay out of harm's way by staying at the second floor of a two-story house overnight. The victims were later rescued.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Family Congress in Imus

THE FAMILY and Life Ministry of the Diocese of Imus in Cavite will hold a Family Congress, gathering delegates from 60 parishes at the Girls Town Complex in Barangay Biga, Silang town today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Congress will tackle orientation to family and life ministry, family defense and natural family planning. Main resource speakers are Fr. Delfin Paulino "DP" Felipe, director of Simbahayan in the Archdiocese of Manila and Linda Ganar, national coordinator for Billings method, according to a news release. For details, call (046)471-1998.

Benguet agricultural communities advised to conserve water

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—For rural communities dependent on agriculture like this capital town, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has this to say: Conserve water and protect the remaining water resources.

Magsaysay said local governments whose economies are devoted to planting vegetables must exert efforts to address dwindling water supply because "water will be the next expensive commodity if not managed at all."

The senator's challenge was relayed here on Thursday by Marinela Anonas, his executive assistant, during the celebration of this town's 55th Foundation Day and victory in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The town's giant strawberry cake, which was produced in March last year, was recognized on May 31 as the world's "largest short fruitcake."

Magsaysay said communities must be encouraged to look for sites in their areas to serve as small water impounding facilities to prevent water shortage in the future.

His message boosted Benguet's interest to preserve its remaining watersheds after the Department of Land Reform recently released P13 million as seed fund for the province's waterwork projects. Gov. Borromeo Melchor announced the fund's release by Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa when he accompanied President Macapagal-Arroyo in her visit to Tublay town on June 3.

Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate committee on agriculture, said local officials must aggressively pursue programs that would complement water preservation.

One of these programs, he said, is that farmers must be encouraged to gradually shift to organic farming because it has much to offer.

He said most farmers today are still engaged in inorganic farming or farming that is dependent on commercial farm inputs. But the practice of using expensive chemicals and fertilizers, he said, will cause certain residues "that will seep into and affect water supply."

"This will result in stale births or cause birth defects because the chemicals poison the aquifers," Magsaysay said. Another program, he said, is that farmers must intensify the production of crops that are highly in demand for them to become more competitive and earn more. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BI official who returned $1,000 wants to remain anonymous

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—An official of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) set a good example by returning close to S$1,000 or about P55,000 to a travel agency owner, who left it at the immigration arrival counter at the Davao International Airport on Tuesday afternoon.

But Benjamin Lao, BI regional alien control officer, yesterday said the BI official wants to remain anonymous.

The unidentified BI official, Lao said, discovered an envelop at his counter around 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

He said the BI official took the envelope home because it has no markings outside.

Contact

When he opened it on Tuesday evening, he found a form of the Philam Insurance Company and S$923 in cash, Lao said.

He said the BI official found the name Dolores Marquez in the insurance form and a telephone number.

But because it was no longer office hours, he decided to return the envelop and the money the next day.

Lao said the official phoned Marquez, who turned out to be the owner of the New World Travel agency, around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Argument

"He even had an argument with one of Marquez's staffer because he won't give his identity," Lao said.

Lao said when the BI official told the staffer he found Marquez's money, he was given a direct line to the travel agency owner.

Lao said Marquez was thankful her money was returned.

Based on Marquez's account, she enplaned from Singapore via Silk Air on Tuesday and forgot her envelop when she submitted her immigration form.

Court orders DNA tests on Ecleo

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The regional trial court has ordered cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. to undergo a DNA test along with his three children with Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Judge Geraldine Econg issued the order, directing Ecleo and his children to appear before her court on June 27 where their DNA samples would be taken.

The court denied the motion for reconsideration filed by Ecleo's lawyers, opposing the conduct of the DNA tests as these would violate the constitutional rights to privacy of their client and his children.

"The issue of encroachment into the privacy of the accused and the three minor children have already been resolved and discussed by the court in the questioned order… DNA sampling and DNA testing is not in the nature of... searches and seizure...," the order said.

The private prosecutors, composed of officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, had asked the court to exhume and conduct DNA tests on the remains of Alona.

The defense refused to admit during the case's pre-trial conference that the body recovered in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town in January 2002 belonged to Alona.

Ecleo, the supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, is facing parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife.

He has been out on a P1-million bail since last year.

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Problems that bind Eastern Samar

PARTICIPANTS from Barangay Bantayan in Oras, Eastern Samar confer with UP Prof. Evangeline C. Pasagui about their community health plan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Oras, Eastern Samar

IN THE WORDS of Eastern Samar folk, "*ga-ud*" refers to floating garbage drifted toward the sea from several large rivers in the province but which clog the mouths of their tributary creeks and streams.

Elsewhere in the Waray-speaking areas of Leyte-Samar, *ga-ud* refers to a piece of rope used to bind something to a fixed position or an obstacle to one's freedom of movement.

Both definitions apply to Barangay Bantayan in Oras town, Eastern Samar. Floating garbage often clogs the mouth of its waterway connecting to the Oras River and obstructs the water transportation traffic.

As a result, sampans often get stuck by thick volumes of *ga-ud* within view of the scenic Oras Bridge linking the *poblacion* to the south of the province. The engine-driven small boats without outriggers are the only passenger and cargo vehicles that ply to and from the village along a narrow 3-kilometer stream winding through nipa and mangrove swamps.

"Bantayan presented the worst plight among the barangays whose health committee members had attended our trainings," Prof. Mae Florence D. Nierras said. Nierras led a team of professors from the University of the Philippines' School of Health Sciences in Leyte that conducted eight community health planning trainings to more than 200 leaders from 26 barangays in four towns in Eastern Samar from February to April.

The trainings were funded by the Eastern Samar Program Unit of Plan Philippines, a non-government organization working with local partners to build child-friendly communities.

With a population of 600 from 140 households, Bantayan has only one Jetmatic pump as source of potable drinking water.

Electricity comes from solar energy, the technology introduced sometime ago as part of Australian government assistance. But this amenity mainly serves the barangay proper and does not reach all households.

Three sampans service the barangay, but with only one daily round-trip to town and only during high tide because of the shallow and silted conditions of the stream. Fare is P10 per passenger.

Action on 'ga-ud'

"The other [means of] access to the barangay from the highway is by hiking through a footpath and improvised foot bridges across three kilometers of swamps and fields," said Amador Libanan, 24, a schoolteacher and one of very few locals who have completed college. He teaches Grades 1 and 2 in the barangay school.

Bantayan produces rice, root crops, abaca and bananas, which are transported to the town on sampans.

Samuel Libanan, 40, the barangay chair, owns one of the sampans. He lamented the frequent clogging of the waterway's mouth with *ga-ud*—banana trunks, leaf-stripped nipa stalks, branches and twigs of trees and bamboos, plastic bags and fibers—that often got entangled with the boat's propeller, conking out its engine.

Libanan has occasionally organized *pintakasi* teams (communal labor) from his barangay to remove the *ga-ud*, for which he had solicited funds and food donations from the municipal council.

So far, he has not tapped higher-level officials to help address the ecological problem that further isolates his barangay. He said he did not know whom to approach.

A training facilitator sent a text message to Gov. Ben Evardone to ask for possible action. The governor replied that he would refer the matter to the Provincial Tourism and Environment Office.

Ga-ud are usually drifted by the river water to the Pacific Ocean when the tide ebbs. But when the tide rises, some are drifted back and fill the mouth of Bantayan's waterway.

"*Ga-ud* also litter the beach of three zones of our barangay at ebb tide and have to be cleaned up regularly," said Helen Balagasay, 29, a civic leader in the equally affected Barangay Tawagan, just across the poblacion. She attended the training together with the Bantayan residents in April.

Problem priority

During the three-day training, the participants were taught not only to identify their community problems but also to prioritize them.

"The participants often listed only those problems that they perceived would get funding from agencies and top officials. These were not necessarily their urgent problems," said Prof. Elvira L. Prejula, one of the trainers.

"The priorities often altered after the listed problems were subjected to the criteria of urgency, seriousness and scope introduced during the workshops."

Bantayan's *ga-ud* problem went down to third priority after child malnutrition, which affects one-fifth of children aged not more than 5 years old, and the lack of potable water supply.

"I hope we will get outside support this time," said Laura Montallana, 42, the local day care worker who looks after 26 preschool children.

"In formulating action plans for the prioritized problems, we advised the participants to think about support systems, not only from the government but also from the community and from non-government sources," said Prof. Evangeline C. Pasagui, who lectured on the planning process.

"We encouraged them to choose courses of action that are most comfortable to them, based on their past experience," she added.

Participants from 18 of the 26 villages represented in the training mentioned child malnutrition among their top three problems.

Eleven villages highlighted poverty or lack of income among their priorities while nine mentioned lack of potable drinking supply. Eight lamented the lack of essential medicines for their residents, and seven worried about the lack of sanitary toilets.

The problems bound a combined population of some 15,000 to difficult circumstances in the province. These are compounded by such ecological concerns as floating garbage and coastal erosion.

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Protesters find new forum in cell phone text humor

From page A1

most popular ring tone among cell phone users.

Yesterday, TXTPower, a text messaging advocacy group, uploaded on its website two sound files of excerpts of President Macapagal-Arroyo's supposed conversation with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on vote-fixing in the 2004 national elections.

What a wringingly good idea! Filipinos can now download the files to their mobile phones and computers.

The sound files—one on MP3 format and the other as a wav file—can be downloaded for free from http://txtpower.org. They can be used as ringtones or message receipt tones on cell phones or as audio effects on their personal computers.

"The ring tones express the widespread disgust over [Ms Arroyo's] obvious poll fraud. She should fear an entire nation mocking her through ring tones and text jokes," said Anthony Cruz, one of the officials of TXTPower.

"We also invite texters to send remix versions—those with added music to make the [Hello Garci] ringtone funnier," Cruz said.

TXTPower also welcomes text jokes poking fun at Ms Arroyo, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, her son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and brother-in-law Negros Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

Pass it on

"We view this as a perfectly legal expression of views," Cruz said.

"We plan to compile text jokes [on the President and the controversy surrounding her and her loved ones] there [on our website]," he added.

A popular text joke making the rounds of cell phones goes like this—"GMA to Garci: Hello Garci. *Pasahan mo naman ako ng load, este* (Can you pass me a load, I mean), vote." It's a humorous slip on the part of "GMA" asking for a vote instead of a cell phone load.

TXTPower first grabbed the headlines when it made public, through its website and its network of cellular phone subscribers, the mobile phone number of House Speaker Jose de Venecia when some members of the House planned on legislating a tax on text messages last year.

After making public De Venecia's number, the group, made up of "militant" techies and scientists, called on the country's millions of mobile subscribers to swamp his phone with messages of protest against a so-called "text tax."

Selling like hotcakes

Compact discs of the controversial audio tapes continued to sell briskly although the National Telecommunications Commission and the Department of Justice had warned the public against circulating the President's alleged voice recordings as it was allegedly the product of criminal wiretapping.

The question is, why are the discs, which cost P6 to produce, selling for P5 each? This is not exactly a good business practice, according to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"We don't want to speculate why this is happening. But the fact is, *bakit palugi* (why do they choose to lose money)? It's probably not [for] business [profit, but for something else]," Lomibao told reporters yesterday.

CD copies of the alleged wiretapped conversation had cropped up in several places in Metro Manila, including Quiapo and Commonwealth in Quezon City.

No jail time

The vendors, however, won't be going to jail—at least not in the next few days.

"We are still evaluating [whether to arrest them or not]," Lomibao said.

Also yesterday, the PNP chief dismissed text messages saying that the President would declare martial law on or before June 21.

Call it a hobby, or the Pinoy culture to pass on text messages no matter what the contents may be, Lomibao said.

"We know Filipinos are fond of 'please pass' text messages," he said.

Disinformation

"My appeal to our people is to be discriminating. Don't immediately believe text messages so they won't be hoodwinked or become [victims] of disinformation," Lomibao said.

He said the best way to deal with text messages is to check with the police officers.

"Don't swallow the text messages hook, line and sinker," Lomibao urged the public.

One such message circulating yesterday read: "Please pass to many people. GMA will declare Martial Law on or before June 21. [Transportation Secretary Leandro] "Larry" Mendoza and [retired police general Reynaldo] Berroya to command SOTs (special operation teams)."

The message continued: "500 Bushmaster automatic weapons for Berroya's hit squad have arrived. If the plan is exposed, maybe GMA would be afraid. The plan includes closing mass media and all cell phone [firms]. There is some resistance in the AFP. For sure, key personalities will be arrested."

DETERMINED to carry on with her duties despite the political storm buffeting her presidency, President Macapagal-Arroyo is shown after giving a speech during a visit to San Jose, Surigao del Norte, yesterday.

REUTERS

'I won fair and square'

From page A1

beneficial economic reforms her administration had set in motion. She said she was confident her detractors would not succeed in driving her from office and called on the people to rally behind her.

"I know that the people who supported me would continue to strengthen my governance," Ms Arroyo said to a round of applause from the crowd.

The President later met with local officials and businessmen and discussed with them the economic potentials of the Caraga region. She then held a press briefing. Reporters were earlier told not to ask questions relating to the illegal gambling payoffs that implicated her family and the alleged wiretapped conversation with former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Business as usual

Environment Secretary Mike Defensor said the President was waiting for the right time to face charges against her and the clamor for her to comment on the alleged wiretap. "Proper and legal processes are being studied before she would answer the charges," he told reporters.

Ms Arroyo arrived in Prosperidad at 11 a.m. to a warm welcome by local officials led by Gov. Adolf Edward Plaza, who told her the people of Agusan del Sur "stand four-square in support of your administration."

The President's visit to Prosperidad was part of a two-day trip to eastern Mindanao during which she handed out land titles and checks for infrastructure projects, projecting a business-as-usual image. In her remarks during these occasions, she delivered the same fighting message to her political foes.

A Malacañang press release said that during a stop in Cagayan de Oro on Thursday, Ms Arroyo repeated her stand not to "dignify" accusations against her by the opposition.

"I will not comment on the authenticity of the material that the accusers admit were illegally derived," she said in an interview with Cagayan de Oro Cable Television Channel 39.

The President said that she was bent on focusing on her work to bring down the poverty level in the country, according to the press release.

Civil society groups to hold probe of tape

From page A1

He said the commission would tap technical expertise from people in the government and firms overseas to examine the tape.

Macasaet also said the civil society investigation would provide an "independent and credible" perspective, unlike the planned inquiry of the House that, he said, could be influenced by both the administration and opposition.

Karen Tañada, board member of the National Peace Conference, said "a greater majority" of civil society members were convinced that it was the President in the tapped conversations.

"As former supporters, we hope it's not true, but if she's the one on tape, painful as it is to us, she has to accept that she has to step down, along with her Vice President and the Comelec (Commission on Elections)," Macasaet said.

He said that while civil society was not joining the opposition's call for the President to step down at this point, they wanted to hear from her regarding the tape.

Impaired governance

"The situation is not helped in any way by the President's continuing and deafening silence on the most simple and basic question: Was that her on the audiotaped conversation or not?" the alliance of NGOs said.

"Unless these critical issues are resolved, the President's ability to govern is seriously impaired," it said.

Macasaet added that such uncertainty and doubt surrounding the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's leadership could not continue for long.

He said Code-NGO and other groups had started back-channel talks with business and church leaders for the commission's composition and functions.

Macasaet said the commission would proceed even if the government refuses to acknowledge it, in the same way that Malacañang ignored the House request for a formal comment on the tape.

"We're after the truth and we'll look for ways to arrive at the truth with or without the help of the government to receive a reasonable confidence in the legitimacy of the president," Macasaet said.

Out before the Sona

The alliance of NGOs expects the results of the investigation to be out within the month or before the President delivers her State of the Nation Address in July.

"It will be difficult to deliver the Sona when it's not even certain if one is the President or not," Macasaet said.

The alliance also called for the speedy prosecution of the President's husband Mike Arroyo, her son Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, and her brother-in-law Negros Occidental Rep. Iggy Arroyo for their alleged involvement in "jueteng" operations.

It said taking the Arroyo men to court would be the proper recourse as it would also provide them the chance to present evidence to clear their names if they were innocent.

The alliance said Ms Arroyo should also clear her government of appointees with strong ties to her husband, particularly those in the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine National Police, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"We were part of People Power II and many of us supported [the President's] candidacy in 2004 in the hope that she would fulfill the social and political reforms she committed in her Sonas and other pronouncements," the alliance said.

"However, after four years of her administration, we are deeply dissatisfied with the slow pace of her reforms... and now we are troubled by the accusations of jueteng pay-offs," it said.

Technical analysis

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that with the President's refusal to respond even to a House investigation on the tape, the Senate would have to resort to a technical analysis of the voices "to determine the truth."

"That is, if we will have an investigation," said Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, noting that the Senate could not hold its own inquiry until a proper referral is made by the plenary at the resumption of sessions on July 25.

Biazon's committee had been asked by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to conduct a hearing even during the current long recess of Congress. But Biazon said no referral was made prior to the *sine die* adjournment to justify an inquiry.

Biazon said that if the Senate decides to conduct its own investigation, it may no longer seek Ms Arroyo's comment on the tape after she turned down a request by five House committees that will conduct an investigation next week.

"Maybe we don't have to because the way she is responding, we cannot force her to make a comment," Biazon said in a phone interview.

"So we will have to resort to a technical investigation if there will be a hearing," he said.

Voice experts

Biazon said that if he would chair the Senate investigation, he would invite foreign voice experts to testify.

Asked if the technical analysis would be acceptable to Malacañang and its allies, he said: "Then who would tell us? Are we seeking the truth or not? The executive department cannot dictate on the Senate on how we can bring out the truth."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier said he would be glad to furnish the Senate the tape he said was certified as authentic by a private Australian forensic voice analysis firm.

He said Dr. Brian Lovell of the Uniquest Pty Limited in Queensland, Australia, had certified the tape obtained by opposition lawyer Alan Paguia as "authentic and unaltered."

Lacson said he had sent to the UPL copies of the Paguia tapes and the two versions released by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye (the first to disclose the existence of such tapes).

He said he had also sent specimens of the standard voices of Ms Arroyo, her husband, Garcillano and Barbers.

Lacson said he was waiting for the official findings of UPL. He also said the UPL experts were willing to come here to testify on the voices.

The Barbers factor

Biazon said legislators should respect the President's decision to keep mum on the tape purportedly showing she rigged the 2004 election by asking Garcillano to produce a one-million margin over her nearest rival.

The senator, a member of the pro-administration Liberal Party, appears to have a stake in the controversy because part of the wiretapped conversations refer to his neck-and-neck battle with then fellow administration candidate Robert Barbers for the last winning slot.

In the taped conversations, Ms Arroyo and her husband purportedly asked Garcillano to help Barbers win.

Biazon, also a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said he had documents coinciding with events referred to in the conversations. He said he would reveal them "in due time."

Expert verification

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the tape should be subjected to expert verification in order to put the controversy to rest.

"It should be none other than the President who must officially and decidedly subject the tape to verification by top local and/or foreign experts in the required technology," the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate said in a statement.

"It should be the President herself who must see to it that this deadly issue is resolved once and for all, well and fast," he said, adding:

"Truth or lie, the tape in question is no light matter. Not only could the past be dug up. The present of the country might become uncertain, and its future pitifully made unpredictable." *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

RP no ...

From page A1

a warrant of arrest has to be obtained first before the Isafp could tap the conversation of suspected criminals, he said.

Is there a Garcillano file?

A former Isafp chief confirmed this. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the former Isafp chief said that data gathered through wiretapping by "operations" were submitted to "production" for processing.

"If the wiretapping on Garcillano [had been] ordered, then there [should be] a file in Isafp. If there was no written order but just somebody asking them, well, that has to be explained. Who asked Isafp to do it?" the retired officer said.

According to him, the Isafp handles only "national security matters."

"Is there a national security involvement in this Comelec commissioner at the time of the wiretapping?" he asked.

An INQUIRER source in the intelligence community admitted that Isafp has the equipment necessary to monitor phone conversations whether by cellular phone or land line, debunking a denial by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrade.

According to the source, the Isafp acquired high-tech equipment worth P25 million from the Israeli company Efrat in 1995, when Fidel V. Ramos was president.

Israeli-made device

To escape detection and questioning by the Bureau of Customs, the Isafp group that went to Israel "hand-carried" the equipment like ordinary lap-tops, according to the source. The equipment would in fact become the "secret weapon" that Isafp would use in neutralizing suspected drug lords, like Alfredo Tiongco.

But it was also reportedly used against alleged "political enemies" of Ramos' Lakas party, especially during the 1998 presidential election.

Just before the May 11, 1998 election, police identified with the Ramos group "raided" the office of police officers identified with Vice President Joseph Estrada and found bugging devices allegedly used to tap the telephones of administration candidates.

When Joseph Estrada assumed the presidency, Panfilo Lacson, chief of the Presidential Anti-crime Task Force (PAOCTF), allegedly got hold of the equipment and the "men" from the Military Intelligence Group (MIG 21) who were trained in using it.

When Estrada was ousted and the PAOCTF was disbanded, the Israeli equipment was reportedly returned to the Isafp which was then headed by Col. Victor Corpus.

What emerged from these narratives is that wiretapping is not a novelty in the political war game.

Unforgettable

In the early '90s, a high-ranking government official was reported to have received a cassette tape recording of him singing Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable" to a socialite who was rumored to have been his paramour. It was a warning to be more discreet and the official went on to become a successful politician.

In the '80s, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile complained in an interview that he was the only defense minister in the world who was under surveillance by his own government. Enrile was then at odds with the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Fabian C. Ver.

In August 2000, Maj. Thomas Dumpit Jr. of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) complained to the media that the PSG chief, then Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, who was also concurrent chief of Isafp, had installed bugging devices in the Office of the President.

Informed that "bugging" was a routine security operation, President Estrada brushed aside the allegations made by Dumpit. Estrada also ignored Dumpit's more serious allegation: that the tapes had landed at the office of Lakas, the opposition party headed by Ramos.

In October that year, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson played a tapped conversation between him and Estrada associate Charlie "Atong" Ang where Ang begged Singson to cancel an exposé on Estrada's alleged "jueteng" collection.

The exposé led to an impeachment trial and eventually a people power uprising that ousted Estrada in January 2001.

The question being asked now is: Does the same fate await Ms Arroyo?

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3 die in Payatas grenade explosion

By DJ Yap
and Tarra V. Quismundo

A SERIES of gunshots followed by a blast roused residents from their siesta yesterday afternoon in Payatas, Quezon City.

When they rushed to 3 Camia, Lower Jasmin, they were met by a grisly sight: the mutilated bodies of two men and a woman lying bloodied on the ground.

No one knows what led to the death of Sabaina Casan, Ibrahim Angkong and Muda Aginoc at about 3:30 p.m., police said.

But some neighbors said they saw Angkong chasing Aginoc while shooting at him with a .45-cal. pistol. Aginoc then ran inside Casan's house, followed by Angkong, they said.

Moments later, a blast was heard. It came from an exploding hand grenade, which police said likely killed the three instantly.

Police recovered fragments of an MK2 hand grenade and .45-cal. bullet casings.

Police said Aginoc was an asset or informer of the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

A dispute between the police asset and Angkong over illegal drugs could have led to the deaths, said Central Police District investigator SPO1 Felipe Tumibay.

A neighbor said Aginoc probably owned the grenade and had tried to threaten Angkong with it.

Casan, a mother of four, could have just been caught in the crossfire, he said.

The 14-year-old daughter of Casan said her mother was a friend of Aginoc, but was not sure if she had known Angkong.

Tumibay said the bodies would not be autopsied and would be buried within 24 hours since the three were Muslims.

Meanwhile, an alleged informant of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was felled by a single bullet in front of his home in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, Thursday night.

Rommel Montano, 52, was chatting with a friend on Macabulos Street at about 10:20 p.m. when a heavyset man suddenly came from behind, raised his pistol toward Montano's head, and opened fire.

His friend, Nemesio Galano, said Montano was busy texting on his mobile phone when the assailant struck.

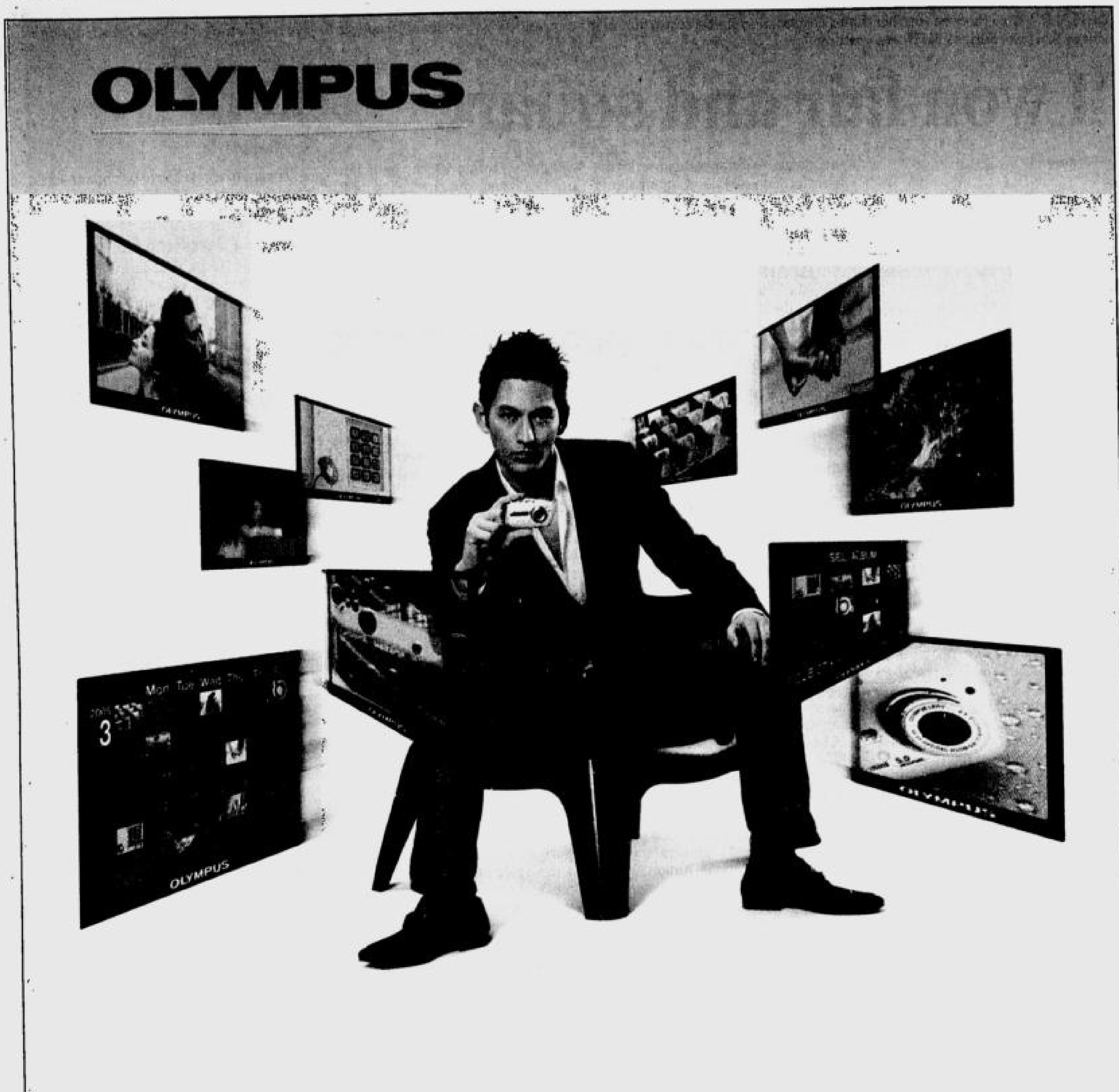
The gunman, whom Galano described as a dark-skinned, wide-faced and stocky man wearing a baseball cap, then fled.

"The victim may have known the suspect. But if it was something personal, I doubt the killing would have been done that way. It was simply murder," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Department Homicide Section.

Galano, 48, the lone witness in the slay, said that two hours before the incident, Montano was communicating with his PDEA handlers about a drug suspect he had tipped on.

At about 8 p.m., two strangers asked Montano and Galano where they could find a retail store.

Later, one of the two men walked behind Montano, and fired a shot into his head.



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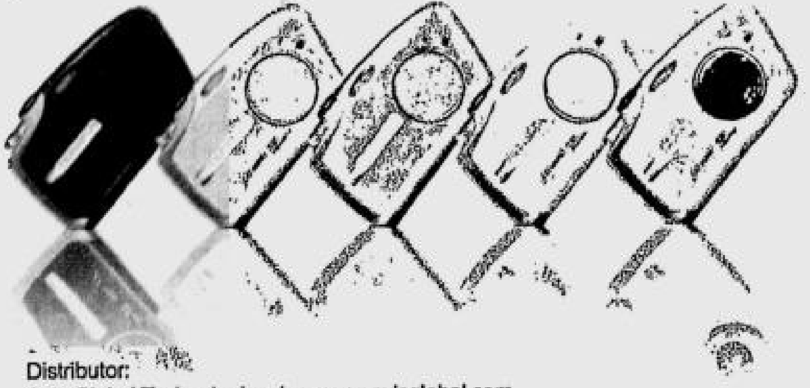

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Cops check 4 names in slay of TV director

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHAT'S in a name?

For investigators of a shooting incident outside a Makati City bar last week, a name could very well make or break their case.

"That's all that is lacking: the identity of the shooter. And then, we could say the case is solved," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Department Homicide Section.

Since the dawn shooting that killed television director Luigi Santiago in front of V-Bar in Ayala Center on June 8, the police have yet to determine the name of the alleged gunman, identified only as a certain Oliver.

Chief Insp. Manuel Santos Jr., Makati Criminal Investigation Division chief, said investigators already sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in identifying the suspect.

Santos said his men were checking four names: Oliver Perez, Oliver Velasco, Oliver Castro and Oliver Angeles.

The fourth name surfaced after police learned that the Toyota Hi-Lux allegedly used by the gunman was registered under the name Charito Angeles, a resident of Hillsborough Subdivision, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The other surnames were provided by V-Bar guests, who remembered that the shooter frequented the club.

Meanwhile, text messages identifying the shooter as a son of a former Cabinet member are but rumors, said Santos.

"That is hearsay," said the division chief.

Asked why the police was taking long in coming up with the suspect's name, Reyes said they were still gathering more information to strengthen their leads.

Sink bottom was woman's tomb for 2 years

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CARPENTER doing repairs in a room in Pasay City discovered Thursday afternoon a woman's skeleton under a sink that served as her tomb for two years.

Darnell Andrada, 19, found the remains at 3:25 p.m. after owner Violeta Pilapil asked him to demolish the sink in a room at 130 Maginhawa Street.

"The room had not been rented for quite a while so the owner decided to have it renovated," SPO3 Salvador Diza said yesterday.

The remains are believed to be that of a woman who lived in the room two years ago with her partner, a taxi driver.

Her skeleton was wrapped in several blankets and was enclosed in cement, Diza said.

Pilapil, who lives one block from the room, told police that two years ago, a couple rented the room.

"One day, the man told [Pilapil] he was going to look for his wife who suddenly disappeared," Diza said, adding that Pilapil had never seen the man since then.

However, the police are facing a blank wall since Pilapil already forgot the names of the couple and did not have any files on them.

All Pilapil could remember was that the man was a taxi driver who always came home drunk and had fights with his partner, Diza said.

Recovered with the skeleton were a pair of earrings, a necklace and a ring, which Diza said were in his custody.

"We are going to do our best to solve this crime," the officer said.

The remains are now at Rizal Funeral in Leveriza, Pasay City, where it would be subjected to DNA testing.

"If anyone is missing a family member, they can approach us at the station," the policeman said.

Mayors have no waste control plan as yet

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

METRO Manila's 14 cities and three municipalities have not yet complied with the Solid Waste Management Act.

"Local government officials in these areas have not yet fully complied with the law. There are provisions they still find difficult to implement," said Rolando Paguinto, acting head of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's solid waste management office.

All local government units have already established their own solid waste management boards based on a compliance assessment from the MMDA.

No plans

But no city or town has completed its own solid waste management plan.

Twelve cities and towns have drafts of their proposed plans, while five have not yet even moved in this direction.

Only a few have implemented composting procedures or have put up their own Material Recovery Facilities.

The other day, representatives from the 17 cities and towns in Metro Manila met with the MMDA to assess their level of compliance with Republic Act No. 9003.

The MMDA itself is gearing up to meet the requirements of the law, especially the provision mandating the closure of the two controlled dumps currently servicing Metro Manila.

The law provides for the closure of all controlled garbage dumps in February 2006. After that, only sanitary landfills shall be allowed, Paguinto said.

The controlled garbage facilities in Tanza, Navotas, and Payatas, Quezon City, which will close down next year, are capable of holding about 1,000 to 1,500 tons of garbage daily.

Metro Manila generates more than 6,700 tons of garbage every day. But only about 5,000 tons are brought to the four MMDA garbage sites.

Not to worry

Despite the scheduled closures, the MMDA said there was no reason to worry.

"There will be no disruption in waste disposal operations, even if our controlled garbage facilities are closed," Paguinto said.

Apart from the two controlled dumps, there are only two sanitary landfills servicing Metro Manila: the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility (MSWDF) in Rodriguez, Rizal, and another in Capas, Tarlac.

The MSWDF currently accepts more than 1,500 tons of garbage from Metro Manila, although Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said this was still way below the 2,500-ton daily capacity of the facility.

The Capas facility, on the other hand, receives more than 500 tons of garbage a day. If the MMDA finds no other garbage facility before the controlled dumps close next year, their daily volume would probably be diverted to these two landfills.

Ideal site

But Paguinto assured residents that MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando was exerting efforts to look for an ideal landfill site.

"We hope to find a large area that would suit the requirements of a landfill site which we could later convert into an industrial zone," Paguinto added.

Farmers file raps vs DLR execs

By DJ Yap

LEADERS of the 155 farmers who stormed the office of Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa and locked themselves inside for four hours on June 8 have accused department officials of prohibiting them from holding "peaceful meetings" and for forcing them out of the room.

Evangeline Mendoza and Enrico Cabanit, leaders of the demonstrators who barged into Villa's office in the hopes of meeting him for a dialogue, yesterday filed a case of prohibition, interruption and dissolution of peaceful meetings against three Department of Land Reform (DLR) officials.

Named respondents were Ernesto Regacho of the DLR intelligence and civil security office, Linda Manluctao of the special concerns staff, and Primo Lara of the Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance. DLR guards with the Lockheed security agency were also included in the complaint.

On June 8, protesters from various farmer organizations forced their way into the DLR compound in Quezon City and locked themselves in Villa's office on the fourth floor when they learned that he would not be able to meet them to discuss agrarian reforms.

After four hours, a Special Weapons and Tactics team broke into the locked office and forced the farmers out.

They were detained at Camp Karingal and released the following day, upon a Quezon City fiscal's recommendation that a further investigation be undertaken on the tumults and public disturbance case lodged against them.

In the complaint-affidavit, Cabanit maintained that they had an appointment with Villa when the incident occurred, adding that they locked themselves in when they saw police outside.

Officials also refused to allow food to be delivered to them during the lock-in, and the lights, water supply and air conditioning were also turned off, he added.

4 police spies collared outside FPJ building in San Juan

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SECURITY guards got suspicious.

Four members of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group were accosted by fellow lawmen while acting suspiciously Thursday afternoon outside a building owned by the family of late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

The four-story building at 226 Wilson Street in Barangay Greenhills served as campaign headquarters during Poe's presidential bid in 2004.

Opposition leader and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito condemned the incident as "political harassment."

"This goes to show that the police and the military are being used in politics by conducting surveillance against the opposition," Ejercito said in a phone interview.

But in a statement yesterday, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said it was only a "simple case of miscommunication."

The operatives said they were in the area to wait for a companion.

Ejercito rushed to the building after he had received a phone call from Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay about 7 p.m. Thursday.

Susan Roces, Poe's widow, had sought the help of Binay.

FOUR PNP intelligence officers were brought to the San Juan police station after reports that they were casing this building reportedly owned by the family of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. JOAN BONDOC

Based on police records, two men on board a black motorcycle approached security guard Marvin Balios while he was assisting customers in the parking lot at about 5 p.m. the other day.

Balios told the INQUIRER that one of the two, who was wearing a black shirt, asked him if opposition leaders had been meeting at the building.

The man specifically asked him if he had seen Binay, Ejercito, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Harriet Demetriou.

When Bailos said that he did not know, the man got angry.

"*Huwag kang magsinungaling. Mag-ingat ka, bata. Babalikan kita* (Don't lie. Be careful. I'll get back at you)," the man reportedly yelled.

The two men then sped away.

After less than an hour, another group of men, also on board two motorcycles, arrived.

They drove past the building several times until they parked on the other side of the road, Balios said.

One of the four men approached the guard and asked: "Is this building 419?"

The guard knew 419 was the old number of the building, now No. 226.

Still reeling from what happened earlier, he again said he did not know.

"*Baguhan lang po ako dito* (I'm new here)," he told the man.

The man walked away and went back to his group on the other side of the road, where they loitered for about two hours.

The guards called a nearby police station and their employer, Roces' daughter Mary Grace.

Ejercito sent his personal escorts to the building and also called the local police.

Based on their identification cards and driver's licenses, the four men were named as Chief Supt. Restituto Arcangel, PO1 Ernesto Buenviaje, PO2 Oliver Esguerra and PO1 Leoncio Castillo Jr.

In his statement, Bataoil explained the four were supposed to conduct follow-up operations on the assassination of former Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot.

Bataoil said they were supposed to proceed to the safehouse of suspects involved in Lanot's killing.

Taguig inmates move to new home

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAGUIG City jail inmates will have a new home starting today when they transfer to a jail facility with more comfortable accommodations.

The 368 inmates, who were packed in four small cells with only two ceiling fans working at the old jail, would be relocated to a new facility containing eight cells that can take in about 1,000 detainees. Each cell is also provided with a ceiling fan and a comfort room.

The prison stands on a portion of a 4.2-hectare property which was previously owned by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Facing the gates of Camp Bagong Diwa, the property was recently turned over to the local government as mandated by Presidential Proclamation No. 599.

Earlier, City Mayor Freddie Tinga ordered the renovation of another building at the site to accommodate the growing number of detainees.

Meanwhile, Supt. Ernest Romero, Taguig Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), welcomed the move, saying this would solve congestion and health problems in the jail.

Skin diseases like boils and rashes, and respiratory illnesses like the common cold, flu and tuberculosis are the usual ailments that afflict prisoners because of overcrowding.

A Justice Hall, funded by the local government, is currently under construction on the same property. With the new hall, detainees would just have to walk a short distance from the new jail to attend court hearings.

"I am hoping that our BJMP officials would also act on my request for 30 additional men as part of our security measures," Romero said. Twenty jail officers are assigned to man the new city jail in three shifts.

The local government would provide additional vehicles today to transport the inmates to the new jail.

A Special Weapons and Tactics team from the local police would also help during the transfer, augmenting the security team provided by BJMP officials, Taguig City Police Chief Supt. Ramon Reyes told the INQUIRER.

'White band' drive launched vs poverty

WEAR a white band and fight poverty.

The local chapter of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) launched yesterday its "white band campaign" to wipe out extreme hunger in the country. A growing alliance of organizations and networks moving against poverty, the GCAP is embarking on a national campaign mobilizing Filipinos to fight deprivation in a country with at least 20 million poor.

The group is urging everyone to wear a white band as their way of asking world leaders to help alleviate the living conditions of the world's poorest.

The white band is a symbol of unity that demonstrates the worldwide nature of its cause. GCAP-Philippines coordinator Marivic Raquiza said the global campaign seeks to "force" leaders to tackle issues such as unfair trade, debt burden and lack of quality aid.

On July 1, the group will hold a concert-rally to inform others about their cause. The affair coincides with the G8 Meeting in Scotland.

At the launch yesterday were Leonor Briones of Social Watch Philippines, and Ana Maria Nemenzo, Freedom from Debt Coalition president, among other civil society leaders.

DJ Yap

Mindanao independence a serious idea

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER University of the Philippines president Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo suggests a revolutionary government, like the one that installed Corazon C. Aquino as president in 1986, to replace Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Is Nemenzo crazy? Does he want the country dismembered?

Or does Nemenzo think Mindanao leaders were just bluffing when they said that they would set up a Mindanao Republic should there be a leadership change in Manila?

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson also said Ilocanos would set up their own Ilocos Republic if the country were placed under a junta.

Even leaders in the Visayas have gotten into the act. They would choose to form their own autonomous regions.

But the most serious threat comes from Mindanao. I've talked to some Mindanao leaders, apart from Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, and they think that seceding from the Philippines is not a bad idea. These leaders, however, would not want to have their names published. But they said that if things come to a head, they would choose to be on the side of Mindanao.

As a Mindanawon, this writer supports the idea of an independent Mindanao. Mindanawons are sick and tired of being led by the nose by "Imperial Manila." Mindanao is the richest island in the country, contributing more than one-half of the national wealth. And yet it gets only a small portion of the national budget.

Somebody told me Mindanao is like California. If California were to secede from the United States, it would be the second most progressive country in the world, next to the US.

* * *

The idea of an independent Mindanao now appeals to both Christians and Muslims. Before, only the Muslims wanted to secede from the Republic; the Christians shook their heads in disagreement. But with the precarious situation in Manila, Christian and Muslim leaders are now talking about an independent Mindanao.

They've actually been doing that for many months now—secretly. Leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, I was told, had been brought together in one bargaining table with Christian politicians.

The consensus they've reached: Muslims would manage their own affairs, and Christians, theirs. Muslim and Christian republics would be under a federal system of government.

There are still many kinks to be ironed out, according to my sources, but they would be settled in due time.

* * *

If the President comes out of the crisis intact, she should immediately call for the convening of a constitutional convention. That's the only way to solve the Mindanao problem.

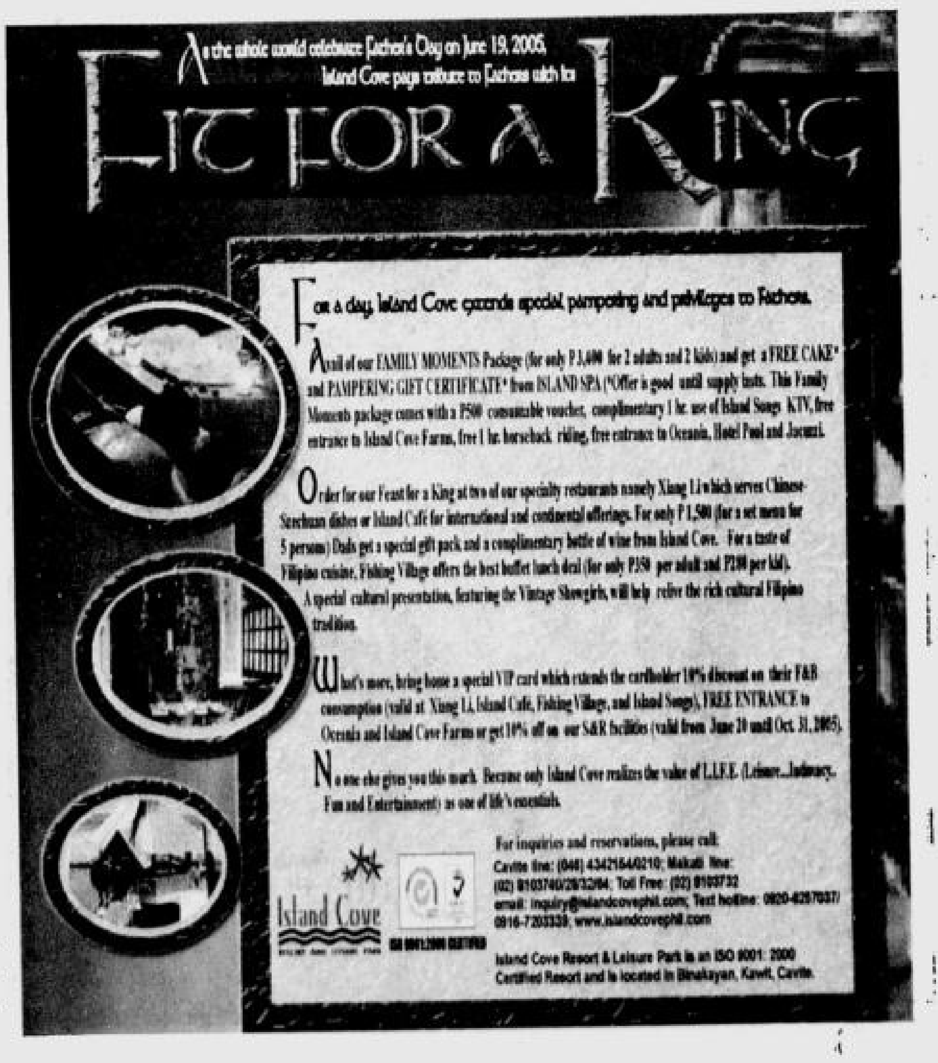
A federal system in a parliamentary form of government would be the best for the country at this time.

* * *

Many Davaoweños are wondering why the President is siding with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, who's retiring this month, over Col. Ricardo Morales, much loved in Davao del Norte, del Sur, and Oriental—and Davao City.

Abu sacked Morales as commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade based in Mawab, Davao del Norte, after the colonel questioned the construction of a military resort hotel in Boracay.

Morales, a Davaoweño, asked why there was a need for it when military men were dying in the battlefields because of the lack of medicines.



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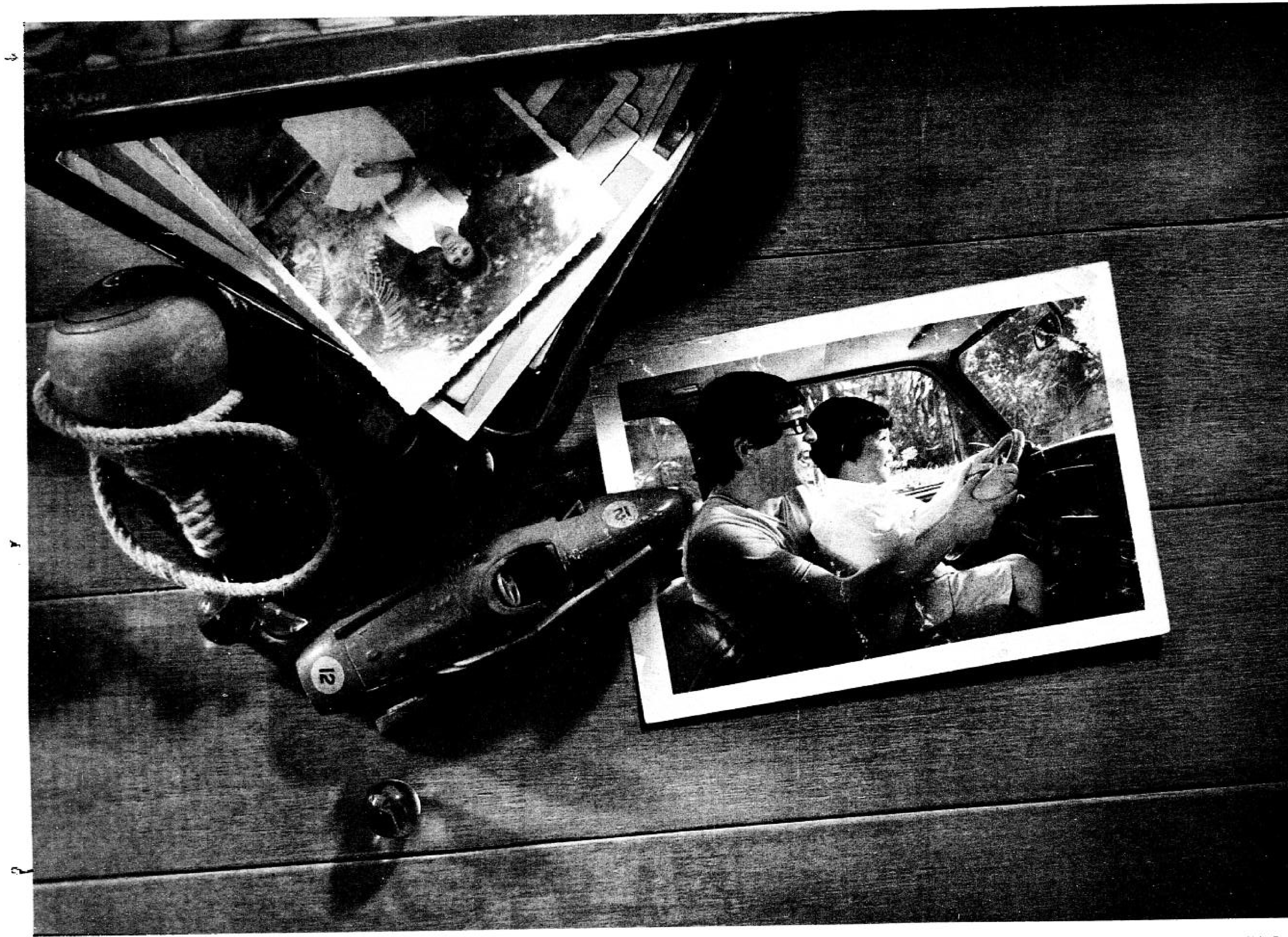

co-pilot

It was my first day at school and I felt so scared. I sat in class surrounded by strangers. All I met were cold stares and nervous smiles. At that very moment you seemed so far away from me.

You must have noticed how lost I felt. Because when you picked me up later that day, you let me take the wheel on the way home.

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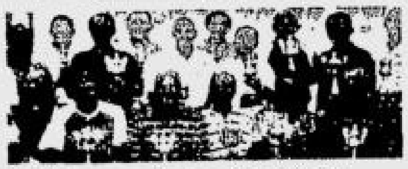

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■ Tac, 6 others make RP team /A27

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■ Paeng settles for 2nd to Malaysia's Zulkifli /A32

Red Bull trips Alaska in thriller

Gahol triple sends Barako to semis

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Shell
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Red Bull Barako

By June Navarro

BRYAN Gahol knocked in a three-pointer with 3.3 seconds left to carry Red Bull to a pulsating 87-86 squeaker over Alaska last night that shuttled the Barako to the semifinals of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Gahol's game-clinching triple came after Brandon Cablay scooted for a layup off a steal that forced Red Bull to create one final play with the prime option of going for a win.

Ranked sixth after the elimination round, the Barako will now meet San Miguel Beer in a best-of-five clash after upending the third-seeded Aces.

"It's a miracle," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after instructing his troops to go for a three-pointer instead of an overtime-sending basket in the final 12.4 seconds.

"I can't believe this game. It's always nice to beat a team like Alaska because you know that it will always go down the wire."

The Barako actually went scoreless for almost four minutes and allowed the Aces to chop away at an 84-78 deficit through the efforts of Reynel Hugnatan and Cablay's steal off Cyrus Baguio.

Earl Barron had another monster performance, erupting for 39 points and 18 rebounds to outplay a visibly fagged-out Dickey Simpkins.

Hampered by an ailing back, the Alaska import finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds.

After finishing dead-last in the Philippine Cup, the Barako are now in their second semifinal stint in the last three conferences and are seeking a return trip to the Finals since losing the Fiesta Cup last year to Barangay Ginebra.

The Barako were red-hot from the field in the opening minutes, making 63 percent of their shots after sinking 12 of 19 attempts as against Alaska's 45-percent shooting clip for a 26-21 lead.

The scores:

RED BULL 87—Barron 39, Baguio 14, Villanueva 10, Gahol 8, Robinson 6, Ybañez 5, Tugade 5, Asaytono 0, Torion 0, Meneses 0, Felhl 0.

ALASKA 86—Simpkins 24, Cariaso 20, Cablay 17, Hugnatan 13, Cortez 8, Allado 4, Thoss 0, Hawkins 0, Padilla 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 43-41, 66-62, 87-86

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'It didn't have to be Washington all the time'

WASHINGTON

By Jasmine W. Payo

ANTHONY Washington's athleticism awed even his teammates.

"Whenever I get the ball, they'll just watch me," said Washington, recalling his debut with Welcoat Paints in the PBL late last year.

Washington's flashy plays, indeed, made a strong impression in the league. Yet the Paintmasters still fell short in the Open tournament finals in February, losing to the Montaña Jewels in the deciding Game 5.

It was a splendid achievement for the rookie Fil-Am, but the Paintmasters learned one important lesson—the scoring burden shouldn't fall solely on Washington.

Clearly, adjustments were made this conference. Displaying a more collective effort, the Paintmasters finally captured the Unity Cup championship by drubbing the Jewels, 98-80, last Thursday.

"This time, the turning point is that a lot of players stepped up," said coach Caloy Garcia after Welcoat claimed its first title since 2002. "It didn't have to be Washington all the time."

So even if the 6-foot-7 forward remained a dominant force, everyone finally got involved in Welcoat's offense.

"We did a lot better job," said. Washington, who was named the Finals Most Valuable Player. "We were playing together more and more. I guess we just needed time to adjust. I was able to get to know my team. That helped a lot."

And such display of cohesiveness was evident in Welcoat's final game against Montaña.

Just like what he's done most conference, Washington carried the team with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Yet the rest of the veterans also performed well. Leo Najorda delivered his finest performance of the series with 18 points. Jojo Tangkay, recently recovered from an ACL injury, fired 17, while Marvin Ortiguerra chipped in 13.

The Paintmasters, though, delivered a balanced effort many times this conference. Even in games when Washington struggled, the Paintmasters proved they had more than enough talent in their roster.

"We had a surprise every game," said Garcia. "Washington also had off nights, so someone had to step up."

Fantastic Freshman awardee Paolo Orbeta, the 5-foot-10 point guard from the College of St. Benilde, proved to be a clutch player.

And aside from old reliables Eugene Tan and Jay-R Reyes, Welcoat also got a boost from Erwin Sta. Maria, Ryan Dy and Jay-A Coching.

"This time, it was our teamwork that helped us win," Garcia summed up. "Everybody played a vital role."

Viray edges Gaston with last-hole bogey

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—Rolly Viray almost blew a five-stroke lead in the last two holes yesterday, needing a pressure-packed five-foot putt for bogey to edge defending champion Francis Gaston for the 2005 Philippine Senior Amateur crown.

AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

NEWLY crowned RP Seniors titlist Rolly Viray (middle, seated) with (from left, seated) Andy Tabusallah, and runners-up Richie Garcia, Francis Gaston and Iggy Clavecilla as well as the other top category finishers.

Starting the day four up on Richie Garcia and six ahead of Gaston, the 55-year-old Viray couldn't finish with a flourish as he narrowly avoided a playoff with a final round two-over-par 74 at Mount Malarayat here.

Counting his opening 75 and a level 72 on Thursday, Viray posted a 221 total to become only the second man after Gaston to win both the regular RP Amateur and Seniors titles.

Gaston rallied by shooting a tournament-best 69 capped by a birdie on the par-5 18th for 222, while first round leader Garcia slid from second overnight to fourth at 235 overall after an 84.

Iggy Clavecilla also made a final-day move despite putting woes, signing for a 74 to wind up third with a 228, while Caloy Coscoluella, the 2001 winner, turned in a 78 for 236 and solo fifth.

Jose Nepomuceno of Eagle Ridge carded an 80 and wound up tied with NGAP vice president Danny Pizarro, who shot a 79, for sixth spot with 238 totals.

"I got nervous, especially in the last hole when I was faced with a

VIRAY/ A28

Taguig cagers stop Ozamiz win streak

FORWARD Taguig stopped Ozamiz Cotta's five-game winning run Thursday night by posting a convincing 73-64 victory in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig City.

Veteran point guard Ricky Ricafuente and Northern Conference player of the month Leo Villar combined for 42 points to give Mayor Freddie Tinga's cagers their fourth win in five games while dealing Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta their first loss in six outings.

Ricafuente scored all his 27 points in the first three quarters while Villar knocked in 14 of his 15 markers in the final half.

Over at the MSU-IIT gym in Iligan, the Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz held off Zamboanga del Norte Hornbills, 80-75, to improve their record to 3-2.

The Hornbills of Gov. Roland Yebes, Dapitan Mayor Dominador Jalosljos Jr. and Dipolog Mayor Roberto Uy uncorked a 21-5 blast in the payoff period to close in at 74-75. But Iligan's Abdul Fariq Sagad tallied six of his team's last seven points to finish off the Hornbills.

Two games resume action today in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Corp., Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

It will be Ozamiz against Parañaque and defending champion Tribu Sugbu against Valencia at the Minglanilla Center in Cebu.

Former Batangas 29ers coach Efren Garcia has replaced Jun da Jose as the Jets' coach, with Mike Buendia, ex-Laguna Spring mentor, as his assistant.

Meanwhile, Gov. Niel Tupas has pledged his support to the Iloilo Warriors of Iloilo Basketball League president Robert Uy.

The scores:

ILIGAN 80—Sagad 14, Ayodelle 14, Roque 14, Cavan 11, De Guzman 9, Torio 8, Faustino 4, Canoy 4, Bagulo 0, Lariosa 0, Bangloy 0, Cosingan 0, Oliveros 0, Kong 0.

ZANORTE 75—Arquero 20, Getubig 14, Jaro 9, Dmaplg 8, Damonsong 7, Cuevas 6, Santander 4, Ober 4, Cabanes 1, Akut 0.

Quarters: 23-24, 42-40, 66-53, 80-75

TAGUIG 73—Ricafuerte 27, Vilar 15, Robillos 6, Alberto 6, De Castro 6, Sinco 6, Dela Rosa 5, Marucot 4, Dulay 2, Zablan 0.

OZAMIZ 64—Bansil 16, Ilanga 1, Commigo 0, Basco 0, Cortes 0, Caylan 0.

Quarters: 18-17, 37-28, 57-44, 73-64

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Saturday June 18, 2005

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ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginiig, The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Kapamilya Movie Sabado			Kontrobersyal (11.45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Anime Ring Kasho				Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	ABCinema		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9				Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Darkness Falls				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Navy Medicine At War	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Shakey's V-League				Blog		In This Corner			
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MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Mobile MYX Top Picks	Club MYX	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
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Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Fine Living Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO	Live From Baghdad (2.20PM)			Nick Of Time (4.05PM)			The Mambo Kings			Anaconda (7:15PM)			HBO Sneak Peek, The Last Samurai	Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed			Fatal Attraction		
Star Movies		Mystery Alaska				Patch Adams				Cold Creek Manor				Seabiscuit					Daylight (11.25PM)
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Batman: Mask Of Phantasm			Cartoon Cartoon Show: Eustace	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Batman The Animated Series	Justice League	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
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Cinemax			Little Women (3.45PM)					High School High			Deadly Voyage			City Of Angels				Christine (10.55PM)	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Superstructures		Disaster At The Death Coast		Hour China		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever, Things	Making the Video: Don't Phunk with My Honey	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Tsikalars	One Bad Trip	Punk'D	MTV Hits						MTV Live Pearl Jam at Madison Square Garden (Pt 1)	
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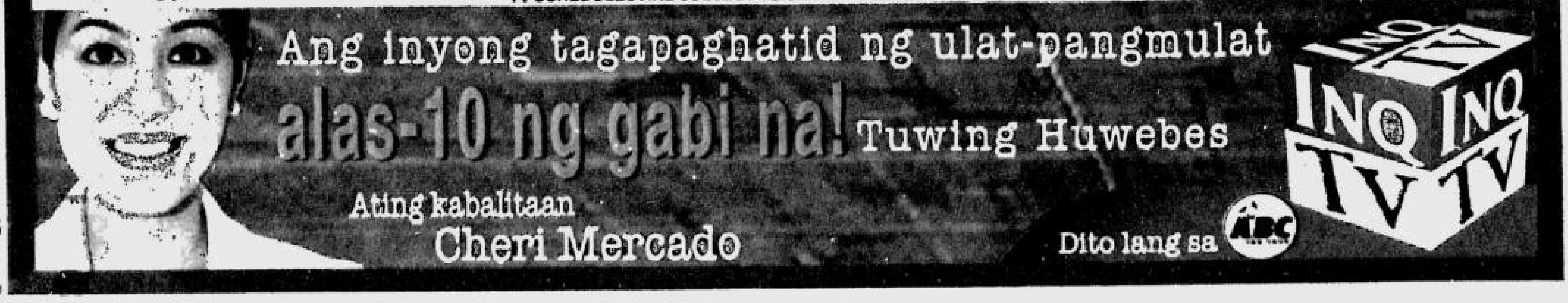
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Wide-open race seen in Zhuhai AF-3

GUANGDONG, China—Unpredictable weather, the pullout of a certified Australian star and the return to form of one of the Philippines' most promising drivers all point to a wide-open race in round five Saturday of the Asian Formula Three Grand Prix at the Zhuhai International Racing Circuit here.

Defending champion Christian Jones of Australia won't be around to shoot for a follow-up win in the fourth leg last month. He opted to give way to Macau's Rodolfo Avila whose car, the one driven to victory last year by Jones, broke down in practice Friday.

Avila, who joined the Jones Motorsport team after a below-par performance in his debut last month with another squad, will drive the Australian Jones' new car.

"We had engine trouble with the other car, and Avila will be using mine," said Jones, who is currently running second in the standings with 62 points, 13 behind Indonesia's Ananda Mikola.

"Besides, I'm not doing this the whole year anyway," added Jones, who is also taking part in the Australian One Grand Prix whose schedule coincides with the AF3 later this year. "It's more important to him (Avila)."

WIDE-OPEN/ A28

LA SALLE'S usually tight defense will be put to the test when it clashes with unpredictable Ateneo at the start today of the Shakey's V-League semifinals. The defending champion Lady Archers are coming off back-to-back losses to fellow semifinalists UST Tigresses and SSC Lady Stags in the eliminations after posting an eight-game winning streak.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

V-League semis starts; La Salle battles Ateneo

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs. San Sebastian
5 p.m.—La Salle vs. Ateneo

ATENEO and La Salle renew their rivalry while University of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian College try to keep their momentum when the Shakey's V-League semifinals kicks off today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

In the first game at 3 p.m., odds are about even for the Tigresses and the Lady Stags who both finished the eliminations with identical 7-3 cards and are fresh off a victory each over top qualifiers La Salle Lady Archers.

The Tigresses, the inaugural conference champions, are as pumped up as ever with Roxanne Pimentel, Mary Jean Balse and Joyce Pano leading its powerhouse cast.

Backstopped by Cherry Rose Macatangay, tournament surprise package San Sebastian is again looking to rock the form charts in the two-round semifinals.

"Whoever gets the momentum first will probably take home the crown," SSC coach Roger Gorayeb said.

Meanwhile, La Salle tries to redeem itself from consecutive setbacks when it takes on Ateneo in the second game at 5 p.m.

Still reeling from a 21-25, 18-25, 15-25 loss to San Sebastian last Friday, the Lady Archers try to get back into the groove with Michelle Carolino and Maureen Penetrante leading their attack.

Newcomer Ateneo, led by the troika of Michelle Laborte, Amelia Guanco and Cecile Tabuena, proved it was no pushover by posting six wins and four losses in eliminations of the event backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC 13 and Jemah Television. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*

Tac, 6 others make RP team

NATHANIEL "Tac" Padilla in action in the center fire pistol qualifier.

VETERAN internationalist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla leads six other shooters who have qualified outright for the Philippine team to the 23rd Asian Games here late this year.

The 40-year-old Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil, easily surpassed the standards set by the Philippine National Shooting Association in rapid fire, center fire and standard pistol to emerge as the country's lone entry in these events.

Joining Padilla on the RP team are Carolino Gonzales (free and air pistol), Emerito Concepcion (air rifle), Susan Aguado (sport pistol), Rachel Marie Capili (women's air rifle) and Josephine Gay Corral and Imee Gana (women's trap).

PNSA president Art Macapagal named Padilla, Concepcion and Jose Ramon Corral as captains of the pistol, rifle and shotgun squads, respectively.

Fourteen other shooters, including Athens Olympian Jethro Dionisio and veterans Eric Ang and Jaime Recio, will still bid for slots in trap, skeet and free rifle prone.

Dionisio, Ang and Recio are vying for berths in men's trap together with Jerry Sun, Jose Ramon Corral and Carlos Carag.

Paul Brian Rosario, Darius Alexis Hizon and Patricio Bernardo are seeking skeet shots, while Rocky Pardillo, Edwin Fernandez, Eddie Tomas, Benny Cagurin and Alfonso Antonio Hermoso are vying in the free rifle prone event.

"All these shooters surpassed the criteria during the monthly competitions from July 2004 to June this year," explained Macapagal. "But Padilla and the six others earned automatic slots becuase no other shooters made the grade in their respective events."

The RP team training will start in August with support coming from the sport's "godfather," Basic Holdings Corp. of Bong Tan, and the Philippine Sports Commission.

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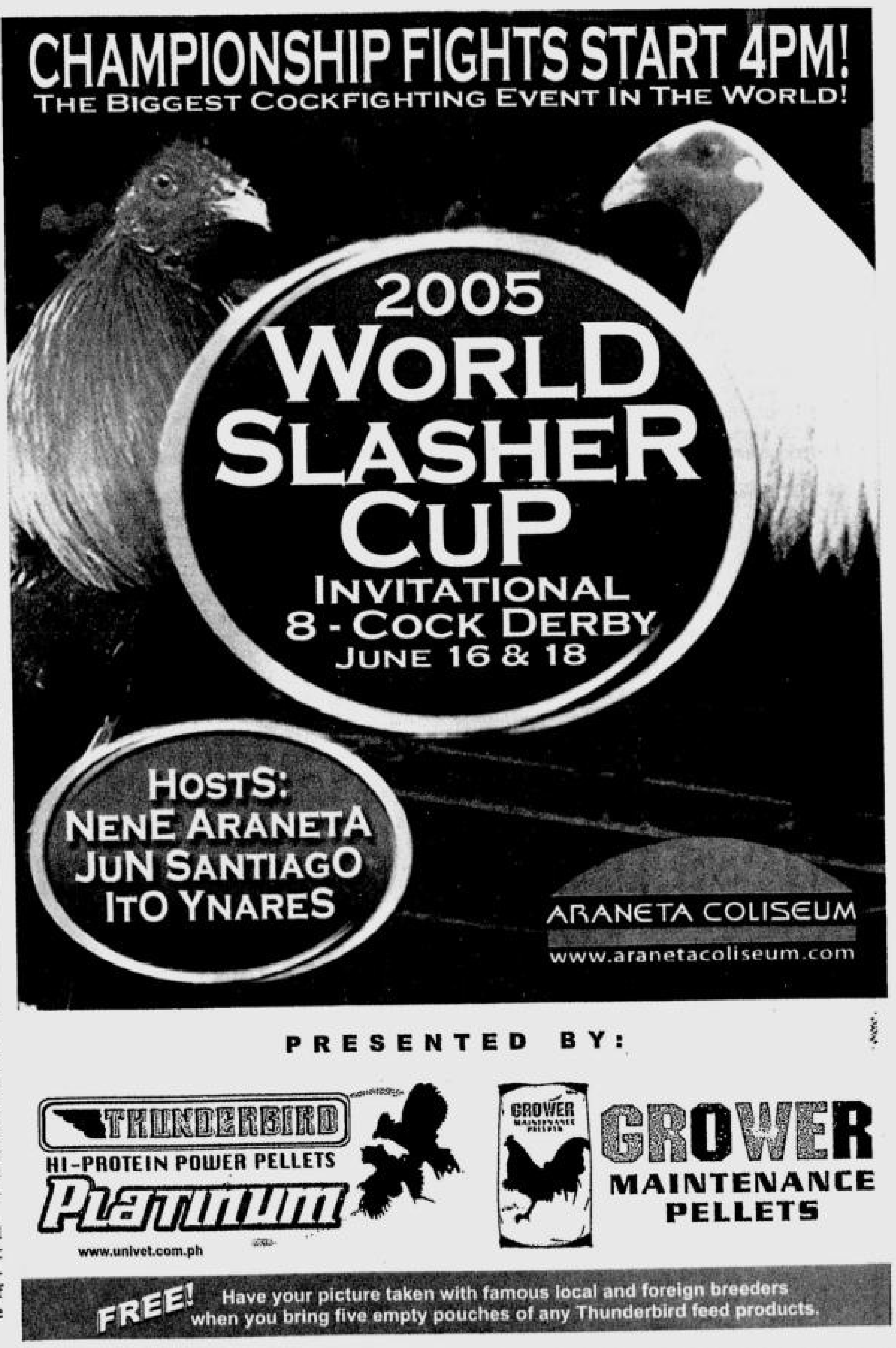

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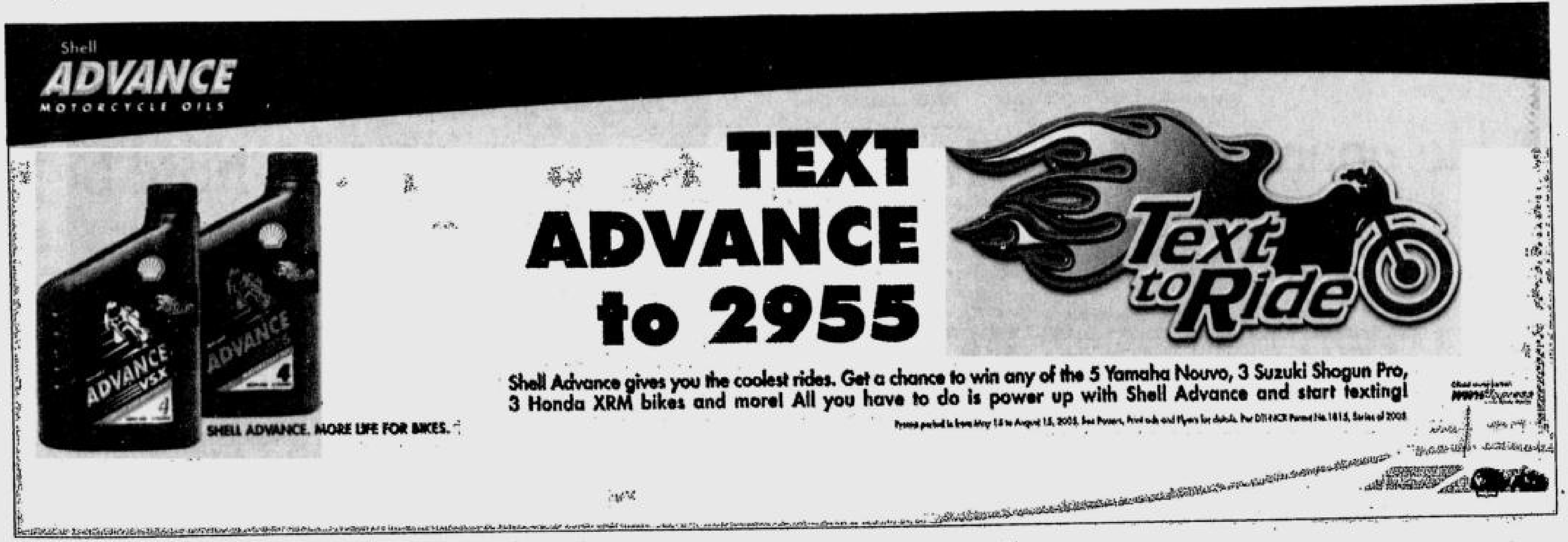

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ROCCO Mediate drives off the 18th tee in the first round of the 105th US Open golf tournament. REUTERS

Cream rises in US Open, with a surprise on top

PINEHURST, North Carolina—Just like six years ago at Pinehurst No. 2 course, the leaderboard at the US Open on Thursday was cluttered with the best players in golf, from defending champion Retief Goosen to Tiger Woods.

The only surprise was the two leaders.

Olin Browne almost quit halfway through US Open qualifying 10 days ago, decided to stick it out and shot 59 in his final round to earn a ticket to Pinehurst. Rocco Mediate was saddled by back injuries and hadn't made a cut in two months until he made it through qualifying with two shots to spare.

Both wound up with a 3-under 67 in conditions that might be the easiest they see all week, taking a one-shot lead over Goosen, Lee Westwood and Brandt Jobe.

Mediate has been coping with injuries for the last two years but believes he has his back straightened out. He somehow reached the 607-yard 10th hole in two, and holed a 50-foot eagle putt to send him on his way.

Browne, a 46-year-old who has gone the last two years without his full US PGA Tour card, chased a 7-wood out of the rough and onto the 16th green for a rare birdie, his third over the final six holes that put him atop the leaderboard for the first time in a major.

"There's absolutely no correlation between qualifying for the Open and playing in the Open, other than it gets you here," Browne said. "I would rather shoot under par at the Open than 59 screwing around at home."

Phil Mickelson, the runner-up to the late Payne Stewart in the '99 US Open, made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th for a 69, making him one of only nine players to break par in warm sunshine along the sandhills of North Carolina.

Also at 69 were former US Open champion Steve Jones, KJ Choi and Luke Donald.

Woods and Vijay Singh, the Nos. 1 and 2 players in the world, both got around the Donald Ross design in 70, along with David Toms and Adam Scott. Two-time US Open champion Ernie Els made a late birdie for 71, joined by Sergio Garcia and Masters runner-up Chris DiMarco.

Add it up, and the top nine players in the world were separated by four shots.

"Any time you shoot even par in the Open, you ought to feel pretty good—and especially this one," said Woods, the Masters champ.

Workers occasionally hosed down the greens with water to keep them from getting too firm, too fast and incapable of holding even well-struck shots to surfaces shaped like saucers turned upside-down.

"It's the ultimate examination of your game," Mediate said. "There's no maybes. It gives you what's happening with what you're trying to do. You don't get to play unless you drive the golf ball. If you drive it bad all day, you have no chance."

Mickelson made two early birdies to put his name among the leaders and not stray too far. Despite bogeys on the 15th and 16th, he holed the birdie putt on his final hole to break par. Still, he issued a warning for the next three days.

"I just don't see how anybody will be under par in these conditions after 72 holes," Mickelson said. "If it gets any harder, which I'm sure it will, and any tougher, it's going to be almost impossible to shoot a round under par."

Els had to make a 15-foot par putt on his opening hole—a par 5, no less—and was 2 over for the tournament until picking up one of only 10 birdies on the par-3 sixth and getting off the course with a 71.

Goosen, Els and Woods all have a chance to win their third US Open this week, and Goosen might have the best game for that. He missed only two greens—an astounding feat at Pinehurst—in his round of 68.

Goosen, who mentioned the lack of attention he received as defending champion earlier in the week, declined to stop for interviews after his round.

Singh missed only four greens, but again far too many putts that kept him at even par. He had few complaints, considering his knee was troubling him, making it difficult to mark his ball or crouch very long to study putts. Then again, the last time it felt like that, he won the Canadian Open. AP

Chess players seethe over prizes; NCFP not budging

By Roy Luarca

A GROUP of disgruntled chess players is on the attack, but the National Chess Federation of the Philippines has a ready counter and will not budge.

Led by Philippine Chess Aficionados & Masters Association chair Antero "Boy" Pobre and International Master Chito Garma, the players yesterday issued a statement complaining about the alleged withdrawal of prizes intended for the top finishers of the National Open Chess Tournament and over the way the men's division edition is being conducted.

In a separate statement, women's division champion WNM Sheerie Joy Lomibao and the other qualifiers claimed they were not given the prize money earlier announced by NCFP chief arbiter Gene Polliarco.

Lomibao claimed that when she went to the office of NCFP president Go Teng Kok to claim her supposed P30,000 champion's purse, she was told that the NCFP had no money and that there were no more prizes because the players, instead of playing for their country, would appear to be greedy for money.

Go explained that he had announced the abolition of the prizes even before the conclusion of the women's event and after three rounds of the men's event, which was postponed due to controversies arising from Grandmaster Eugene Torre's withdrawal and the NCFP's reversal of its ruling to default the first three games of GMs Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano.

Unable to get a booking back home, Antonio and Mariano arrived late from a tournament in the United States and missed the first three rounds.

"It's against the rules of the PSC (Philippine Sports Commission and the First Gentleman Foundation to give prize money during national team eliminations," said Go.

"They can file charges against me, but I'm not going to give any prize money," said Go. "What I can give them are allowances."

Go said these players must remember that they are fighting for the country.

Keeping his options open, Go said he will announce his decisions, with the concurrence of the NCFP board, before play in the men's division resumes on June 23.

"Whatever that decision is, they (players) should follow," said Go. "It is the association which should decide on these matters, not them."

Finals notebook: McDye

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Questions about the Detroit Pistons' depth arose before the NBA Finals began. Antonio McDyess, however, has been a towering presence.

The reserve forward scored 13 points in 19 minutes in Detroit's 102-71 victory Thursday that evened the best-of-seven series 2-2. It was his third straight game in double digits after a run of seven straight with less than 10 points. Reserve guard Lindsey Hunter added 17 points, sharing scoring honors with Chauncey Billups.

Pistons coach Larry Brown had said before the game that last season's championship team was deeper—with Hunter, Mike James, Corliss Williamson and Mehmet Okur complementing the starters.

McDyess went into Thursday's game averaging 9.7 points against San Antonio, tied with Ben Wallace for third on the team and ahead of starters Tayshaun Prince and Rasheed Wallace.

McDyess played about 25 games toward the end of last season for the Phoenix Suns. Pistons president for basketball operations Joe Dumars signed the former All-Star and Olympian to a $23 million, four-year c

who signed a free a

The power forw

points, 8.5 rebound

ing his eight-year

plagued by injuries

The Piston who

Robert Horry la

over a set of Detro

from 1994.

"Wow," he said w

on the Pistons' roste

On Feb. 4, 1994

Elliott to the Houst

NBA FINALS

Pistons rout S

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Tayshaun Prince faked out Manu Ginobili from the right wing and darted to the basket for a resounding dunk to highlight the Detroit Pistons' lopsided 102-71 victory Thursday over the San Antonio Spurs in Game 4 of the NBA Finals.

Detroit produced a mix of suffocating defense and varied offense to level the series at two games each and leave the Spurs looking befuddled, bewildered and beaten.

"I've always said when our defense is clicking we get some easy transition baskets and you never know how much we can score," said Detroit guard Chauncey Billups.

"It's a three game series now. It's going to be a lot of fun," Billups said.

Game 5 in Detroit will be Sunday when one of these teams will emerge one victory away from the title. Game 6 will be played on the Spurs' home court Tuesday, and Game 7, if necessary, will be next Thursday.

The home team has won every game in the series thus far.

"It's definitely good to be tied up after coming home 0-2," said Billups. You don't think the games are going to go the way they did, like this, but I didn't think the first two games were going to go the way that they did."

Prince's drive and dunk came as the Pistons were taking control with a 14-0 run bridging the first and second quarters, and it was never close the rest of the way. When the Spurs tried to force the ball inside, a swarm of defenders and a collection of long arms was there to swat at them, bother them and break them.

Tim Duncan had the best stat line of the night with 16 points and 16 rebounds, but if there was ever a misleading set of numbers, that was it. The two-time finals most valuable player was never able to get into any kind of an offensive rhythm against the defense of the two Wallaces, Ben and Rasheed, and no one stepped up to take on a bigger share of the offensive load.

Contrast that with the Pistons, who received big boosts off the bench from Lindsey Hunter (17 points) and Antonio McDyess (13 points) in support of Billups' 17 points, Rasheed Wallace's 14, Prince's 13 and Richard Hamilton's 10.

"We got a lot of guys who can score. Tonight, Chauncey recognized I had it going, and like I said before the game, I still know how to put it in the hole a little bit," said Hunter, an 11-year veteran averaging just 3.3 points in the postseason. "My dad always taught me the only way you know if the next one is going in is to put it in the air. So I've always lived by that."

Detroit had a 22-10 edge in fastbreak points and a 13-1 edge in steals, led by Ben Wallace's three.

The Pistons took the first double-digit lead of the game early in the second quarter by pressuring rookie backup point guard Beno Udrih. A midcourt trap by Rasheed Wallace and Hunter resulted in a steal, and Prince scored on the ensuing fast break to make it 27-17.

A turnover by Ginobili off another trap led to a layup by Hunter for a 14-point lead, which was followed by an offensive foul on Duncan and a three-point play by Antonio McDyess that made it 34-17.

The big lead held for the rest of the first half, the Pistons calmly walking to their locker room at intermission with a 51-36 lead after getting at least eight points from four starters—Billups, Prince and both Wallaces, while Hamilton made up for his lack of scoring (four points) with five defensive rebounds. As a team, Detroit had 16 assists and just one turnover.

"Tonight was a carbon copy of the last game," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

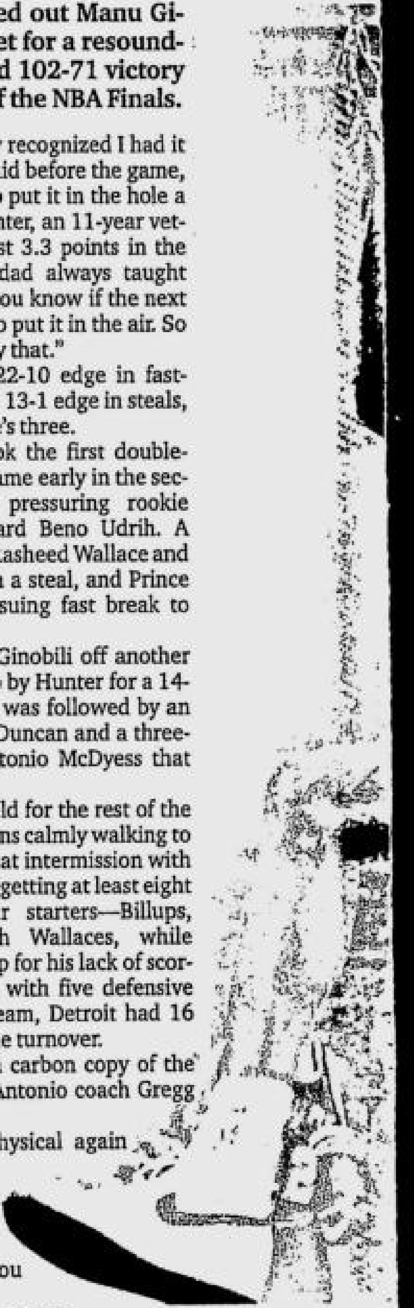
"They were physical again and they got us on our heels again, we reacted very poorly to it and you see the result."

They did a great job."

A subdued Duncan felt the Pistons were better prepared.

"Things just didn't go as planned," he said.

"Sometimes it just goes that way. They did an excellent job of defending and it took us too long to adjust to it."



DETROIT Pistons'
San Antonio Spurs

SIDELIGHTS: A
ner Carrie Underv
national anthem.
rocker Kid Rock w
fore Sunday's Gan

KIM CLIJSTERS, also a Wimbledon favortie, returns the ball to Mashona Washington in the quarterfi of the Eastbourne grass court tournament. Clijsters won the match in two sets, 6-2, 6-2.

Wide-open . . .

From page A27

Rainshowers in the morning and dry conditions in the afternoon marked Friday's practice runs that were dominated by Speedtech Asia's Tyson Sy.

Buoyed by his dominant show in the practice races, Sy is confident his winless spell after four legs will finally end here. The 17-year-old Sy is currently running seventh with 17 points in the Open class.

"I like the circuit here," said Sy. "It's wider and it gives me an opportunity to really make my move, unlike the tight track in Batangas."

Mikola, winner of Round 3, will miss the Japanese engineer of his car and is not upbeat over his chances.

"My engineer is currently in Japan attending to another race," said Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond.

Also expected to contend for a podium finish is Dado Pena of Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, the current fourth-placer, and third-running John O'Hara who has rejoined the Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO team.

Viray edges Gaston with last-hole bogey

From page A26

must-make putt," said Viray, Canlubang's golf manager.

"It's been a long time and I haven't been that active (in tournaments) for a while," added Viray, who had a forgettable five-year career as a pro in the 1980s. He became eligible for senior action last September and played here in only his second tournament.

The top five finishers of this tournament are expected to represent the country in the Asia-Pacific Senior championships in China in November, with the sixth spot likely to go to the tournament's defending individual champion Tommy Manotoc.

Trouble started on the par-3, 140-yard 17th for Viray when he pulled his tee shot so bad he was left with a fluffy lie in the rough. He chunked his second shot and missed a four-footer for bogey.

Gaston parred 17, smoked his drive on the 18th before hitting an eight-foot putt for his 4. Viray had earlier pulled his third shot into the rough guarding the left side of the green.

It took Viray two shots to hit the green, where he was left with that five-footer.

The event presented by ICTSI and San Miguel Corp. and backed by Aboitiz, Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Philippine Airlines, the DOT and The Inns at the Malarayat also crowned four age-group champions.

Villamor's Rico Javier won the gross championship in Category II (60-64) with a 152 (79-73). Ben Lictican of the Riviera was the net winner after consecutive 66s.

Cangolf's Yushihiro Aksaka 159 (80-79) and club bet Pete Malabanan 142 (71-71) won the gross and net titles in the 65-69 bracket, respectively.

Mateo Trinos shot 182 (94-88) to nip Jun Galindez of Alabang for the Super Senior gross title.

Pat Herron of Intramuros w
net winner with 140 (69-71),
donesian Andy Tabusallah of Al
won the Super Senior II (7
above) gross title with 193 (9
nipping former President Fi
Ramos by three.

The final scores:

221—R. Viray (75-72-74); 228
(77-76-69); 228—I. Clavecilla (76
235—R. Garcia (72-79-84); 236—
(77-81-78); 238—J. Nepomuceno (79-79
Pizarro (78-81-79); 241—B. Bunya (81
242—B. Reyes (80-76-86); 244—F. Baw
78-84), R. San Luis (76-85-83); 246—F
(84-82-80); 248—D. Cu Unjieng (83-80-8

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ss strikes, Horry reminisces

eal to replace Okur, gent deal with Utah. rd has averaged 16.7 s and 1.6 blocks dur- career, but has been the past three years.

wasn't

ughed as he looked t Pistons game notes

hen he saw his name r. "That's crazy."

Detroit traded Sean on Rockets for Horry, Matt Bullard and two second-round draft picks. Horry made it to the Palace for that night's game against Seattle, but never got past the locker room door.

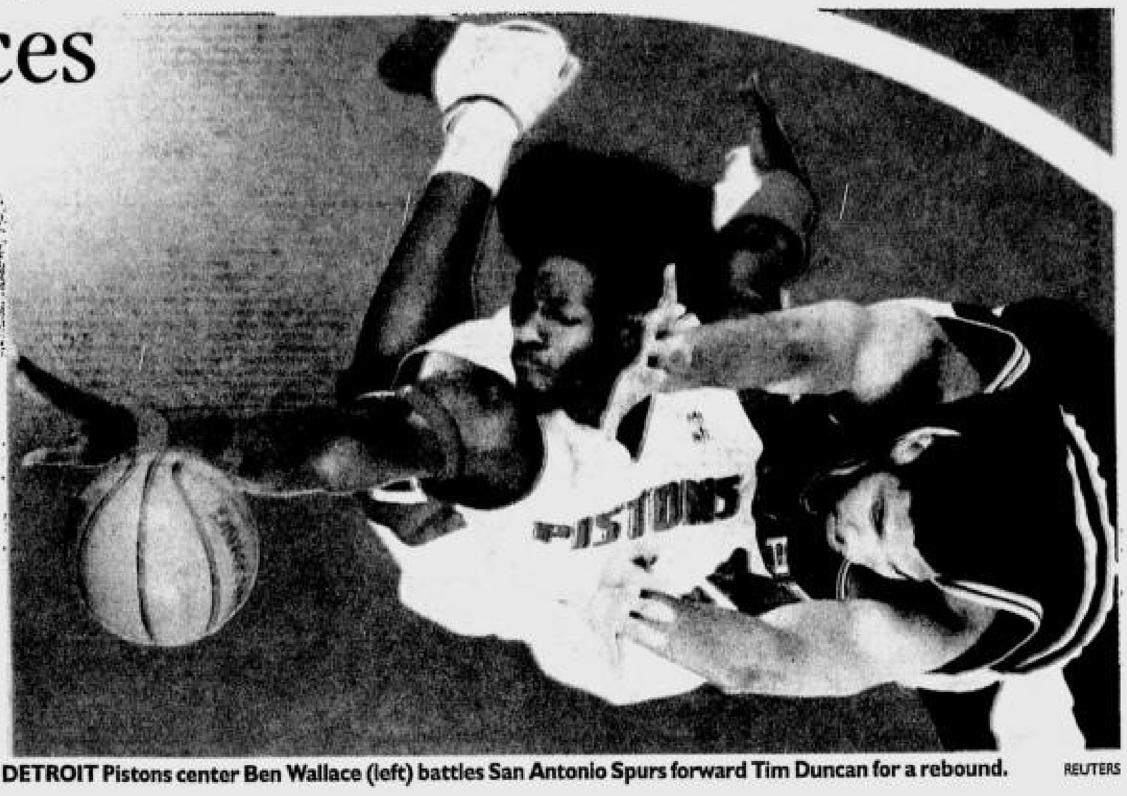
"Matt and I were heading out to warm up, and they stopped us and told us that Sean hadn't passed his physical, so we couldn't play," the San Antonio Spurs forward said before Game 4. "The next day, they told us he had failed it, and we went back to Houston. I was pretty happy about that—it's too cold here in the winter."

Horry has other reasons to be glad the trade fell through. That spring, he won the first of his five championship rings, while the Pistons were finishing 20-62.

"Were they that bad?" he asked. "Wow, I'm glad I got out of there."

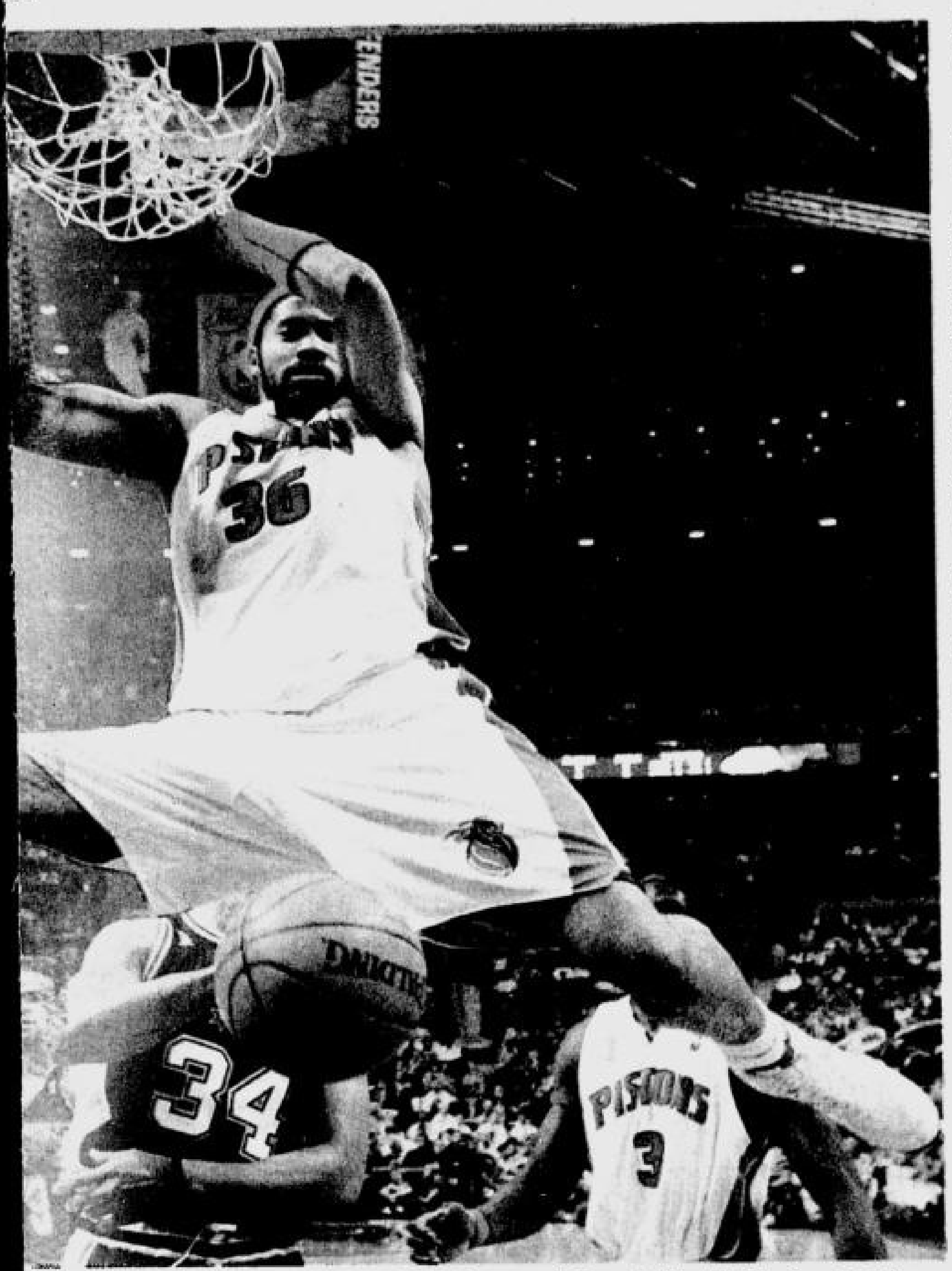
Horry would have joined a team that was made up of stars at the end of their careers like Joe Dumars and Isiah Thomas, young players like rookies Lindsey Hunter and Allan Houston, and journeymen like Terry Mills, Cadillac Anderson, Olden Polynice and Mark Macon.

"I've thought a lot about how things would be different if that trade had gone through," he said. "I might not even still be in the league." *AP*



DETROIT Pistons center Ben Wallace (left) battles San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan for a rebound. REUTERS

urs, tie series



Rasheed Wallace dunks the ball during the fourth quarter in Game 4 of the NBA Finals against the : The Pistons defeated the Spurs, 102-71, to tie the best of seven series, 2-2. AP

American Idol win- ood performed the Detroit-area rap- as to perform it be- e 50

Faces in the crowd included rapper Eminem for a second straight game.

Only San Antonio guard Manu Ginobili drew louder boos than his teammate Tony Parker's girlfriend, "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria, when she appeared on an overhead monitor. LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers hugged Hunter in the hallway after the game. *AP, Reuters*

Spurs appear demoralized after back-to-back defeats

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—After dominating the first two games of the NBA Finals and looking unbeatable in the process, the San Antonio Spurs suddenly appear totally demoralized after a pair of painful losses.

The Spurs were humiliated by a reinvigorated Detroit Pistons, 102-71, in Game Four of the best-of-seven series at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Thursday, allowing the defending champions to pull back to 2-2 following Tuesday's 96-79 beating.

"I don't think of it as 'square one' but it's disappointing to play two games the same way and not learn from Game Three," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

"I just think of it as two bad performances and if it doesn't get better, we'll be in big trouble."

The Pistons are clearly winning as a team—seven Detroit players were in double-digits in scoring on Thursday—and the Spurs are clearly losing as a team with all their stars struggling.

NBA champions in 1999 and 2003, San Antonio have looked discouraged in defeat but Popovich insisted that was not the case.

"I don't feel frustrated at all," he said. "There would be some other words that would be a lot more accurate, but there's not time for frustration."

Tim Duncan had 16 points and 16 rebounds in Thursday's loss, but he shot just five-for-17 from the floor.

Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker both scored 12 points, but they too were ineffective for most of the night.

The Game Three defeat was bad enough but just about every statistical category in Game Four was worse.

However, the most startling difference between the clubs was in turnovers, with the Spurs making 17 to just three for Detroit.

Chauncey Billups, who had 17 points for the Pistons, believes the turnaround is more to do with Detroit playing well than San Antonio playing badly.

"I think we're really a different team right now than we were in Game One and Two," Billups said.

"We're playing with a lot more energy. It's a three-game series now, it's going to be a lot of fun."

It will not be much fun for the Spurs unless they can find a way to get untracked, preferably for Game Five at Detroit on Sunday, or at least by the time the series returns to San Antonio.

"Game Five is definitely going to be a must-win and we definitely need to make some adjustments and try to compete," Parker said.

"We need to refocus, we have two days to think about it and come back strong." *Reuters*

Union: Lockout could kill NBA

DETROIT, Michigan—National Basketball Association (NBA) union director Billy Hunter said failure by the league and the players to reach a new collective bargaining agreement could result in a "death knell for the NBA."

With 15 days remaining until the current agreement expires, the two sides have a number of major issues still in dispute, including a new drug-testing policy.

The union is holding meetings on June 27 in Las Vegas and Hunter says a lockout would be a disaster for the league.

"It would be a protracted lockout. It would be a death knell for the NBA," Hunter said.

He refused to disclose specific issues that divide the owners and players but offered to re-open bargaining sessions to avoid another work stoppage.

Commissioner David Stern said prior to game two of the 2005 NBA Finals: "If July 1 comes and there is a lockout, the union will have made a mistake of epic proportions."

In the event of a lockout, Stern warned that the current owner's offer would die on the table and the players would get an increasingly lesser offer in the next round.

He said the owners promised the players a sizeable increase in NBA revenues and average salaries raised to $5.5 million from the current $4.4 million.

Stern added there was a compromise in the eligibility age for new players at 19 but the union is hesitating on a tough new drug testing policy.

Hunter said he was not upset with Stern's decision to go public with the discussion of the issues in San Antonio.

"I think it probably helped the process," he said. "We don't want a lockout. I've been down that road before."

Last month, the NBA broke off negotiations, claiming that the union reneged on an agreement to the framework of a deal including many of the above points.

No meetings are scheduled but Hunter said: "I'm going to call David one more time between now and June 30."

The NBA's last lockout began seven years ago and lasted over six months. It forced the cancellation of regular-season games for the first time in league history and created a substantial dropoff in league revenues. *AFP*

Sharapova returns to tennis business

LONDON—Maria Sharapova has become a multimillion-dollar industry since her stunning Wimbledon triumph a year ago when she demolished Serena Williams in the final.

Lucrative contracts and modelling assignments have rolled in for the statuesque, 18-year-old Siberian. Sharapova has even launched her own brand of perfume.

Next week, though, is all about tennis and Maria the businesswoman will be consigned firmly to the locker room when Sharapova walks out on Center Court on Tuesday to begin the defense of her title against Spain's Nuria Llagostera Vives.

Maria the fiercely competitive tennis player, with her nerves of steel and icy stare, will have only one objective—proving that last year was no flash in the pan.

It will be a tough assignment, even for a young woman who sacrificed a normal childhood at the age of nine, left her mother and arrived in Florida with just a handful of dollars.

Sharapova is unlikely to change her all-or-nothing approach on the slick Wimbledon grass, although tactically she will have to smarten up if she is to fend off the challenge of her main title rivals.

Two of those lurk in her half of the draw, with fourth seed Serena Williams or rejuvenated Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne, seeded seventh, her likely semifinal opponents.

Williams, who missed the French Open with an ankle injury, will be hard to stop if she survives the opening rounds. *Reuters*

History backs Schumacher's USGP bid

INDIANAPOLIS—The US Grand Prix may be just the tonic Michael Schumacher is looking for.

The seven-time Formula One champion has either started from pole position or won the race every year the USGP has been run at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He's won it three times and finished second the other two.

In 2002, he slowed on the last lap and let his Ferrari teammate, Rubens Barrichello, pass him for the victory to gain points in the series championship.

No wonder he's not accustomed to the struggles he's been experiencing this season.

"There are phases like this that are not so successful, but we have been so successful that I think it's pretty normal," he said Thursday, the day before the start of practice.

The 36-year-old German has won a record 83 races, including 13 of 18 starts last year, but he and Barrichello are winless this season heading into the USGP on Sunday.

Schumacher was second in the Canadian Grand Prix at Montreal last week, matching his best finish this year, but has failed to finish three times and is fifth in the points, trailing Renault's Fernando Alonso, McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen, Toyota's Jarno Trulli and Williams' Nick Heidfeld.

Schumacher has won the series championship each year since 1999, when he was fifth.

"The point is, the development rate of Formula One is extremely quick," he said.

"We had quite an advantage last year. There's been rule changes, which sort of re-zeroed things, and quite frankly we, as a whole package, probably didn't do as good a job as we did last year. The other teams have done a very good job, which leveled out the situation."

Barrichello is seventh in points, with his best finish second in the opener at Australia. *AP*

Speedzone club readies live F1 showing

WITH the F1 series heating up, round 9 goes to historic Indianapolis Speedway for the USGP race tomorrow.

The Mild Seven F1 Club in Speedzone, Fort Bonifacio, will be showing the race live and will be starting with an endurance karting race at 8 p.m. and then the popular Mild Seven F1 Trivia Contest before the live showing at 2 a.m.

The Mild Seven F1 Club saw a full house last week and the official TV provider for the Mild Seven F1 Club, JVC, will be adding Plasma TVs for all to have a fantastic view of the race even in the open area.

The fastest club in the Philippines is sponsored by Mild Seven, Speedzone, JVC, Puma footwear and Apparel, Colt 45, Colt Ice, Lonestar Ultra and light Beers, MP Turbo and Speed with official radio stations Joey 92.3 and Monster RX 93.1 FM. For more info, call 0919-4921575.

Win this "Inquirer mug

INQBOX

Question of the Week

What do you think should President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo do in the wake of the jueteng and audio tape recording scandals?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! Ü*

inquirer box name/age/city/message.

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

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Buddy, Lito still buddies despite BAP row

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

GUYS, guys, guys, don't be like that. It's not very nice to snicker at people.

Okay, so PBA commissioner Noli Eala finally gave in after some stubborn resistance and a clash of egos with GAB chair Eric Buhain who had threatened to suspend him if he failed to comply with the requirement of securing a GAB license for himself.

The important thing is, he finally got a license. As they say, better late than never.

So please, don't say, "The commissioner ate crow (whatever that means)," or anything to that effect, because it's just not nice.

With this development, does it mean that all's well that ends well?

Well, at least Noli won't be suspended anymore. However, there might be some hindrance in the flow of communication between the PBA and the GAB, because from what I heard, Buhain still isn't in a speaking mode with Noli. And may never will till the end of the world. I understand that all communication from the PBA commissioner to the GAB chair will have to be coursed through the latter's deputies from hereon. Or it could be a deputy-to-deputy process.

Kids, aren't they cute?

* * *

PBA chair Buddy Encarnado and FedEx governor Lito Alvarez have always been strong allies inside the PBA board room, ever since FedEx joined the league three years ago.

But now, through an unexpected twist of fate, the two suddenly find themselves in opposing camps. Violently opposing camps at that.

A few days ago, Buddy was unanimously voted to replace interim chair Gen. Edgardo Aglipay in the recently-formed Philippine Basketball Federation. Aglipay had withdrawn from the post and endorsed Buddy to take over.

The Sta. Lucia governor, who received the offer while in Baguio, graciously declined the position, probably aware of the chaotic situation in Philippine basketball today.

However, after it was explained to him that he would only hold the post until the election of new officers, he hesitantly accepted.

* * *

"It's okay if it's only on an interim basis. I could hold the fort a couple of weeks until the elections," Buddy said.

That night he motored back to Manila and arranged a breakfast meeting with Lito Alvarez, who days earlier, was elected deputy secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Now I don't know who initiated the meeting or how long it took, but I learned from both parties that nothing definite was reached during the discussions.

"We compared notes to arrive at a win-win situation for all parties concerned," each of them said. "Our objectives are the same after all: To find a peaceful solution to the impasse between the BAP and the new federation."

Curiously, each invited the other to join his association.

* * *

"The BAP has been doing everything to improve the organization. When they questioned the leadership, the association immediately acted and installed the best people possible in key positions: Joey Lina, Wilson Young, Cristy Jalasco, Jerry Codiñera and Sen. Dick Gordon. Earlier, when detractors said we should form a stronger team for the ABC so we can take a shot at the 2008 Olympics, the BAP forged a memorandum of agreement with the PBA, which subsequently offered its resources for flag and country," Lito said.

"As you all know, we will be sending our strongest team to the ABC in Qatar this September. I believe the BAP has addressed all the major issues. Now if it's an issue of power grab, that's a different story and will really be difficult to resolve."

* * *

I got this text message from a number I couldn't identify yesterday afternoon. It read: "Ma'am, *may* decision *na daw* re Asi (Taulava). *Ayaw lang magsalita ni Eala.* If TNT talks *daw*, let them do the talking. Focus *daw muna siya sa* semis and finals (of the Gran Matador Fiesta Cup). *Baka may* number *kayo ni Ricky Vargas?*"

I texted Ricky soon as I got this message but, like Noli, he too wasn't in a talking mode.

"*Tahimik muna ako*," he said.

A colleague said Eala turned down the appeal of Talk 'N Text to allow Asi to play.

Reyes seeks end to local title drought

EFREN "Bata" Reyes is one hungry soul leading to the Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship on June 25-29 at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

The Filipino pool icon hasn't won a title on local soil since ruling the Manila leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour in 2003.

But the current spell just makes him more formidable.

"I'm more determined to win because most of the world's best players will be here," Reyes said in Filipino.

The "Magician," of course, is far from being a spent old chump.

He recently topped the Jakarta leg of the Asian 9-Ball Tour, was the overall champion of the tour in 2003 and 2004 and was a strong runner-up to Taiwanese Yang Ching Shun this year. He was also the top money-earner in world billiards last year.

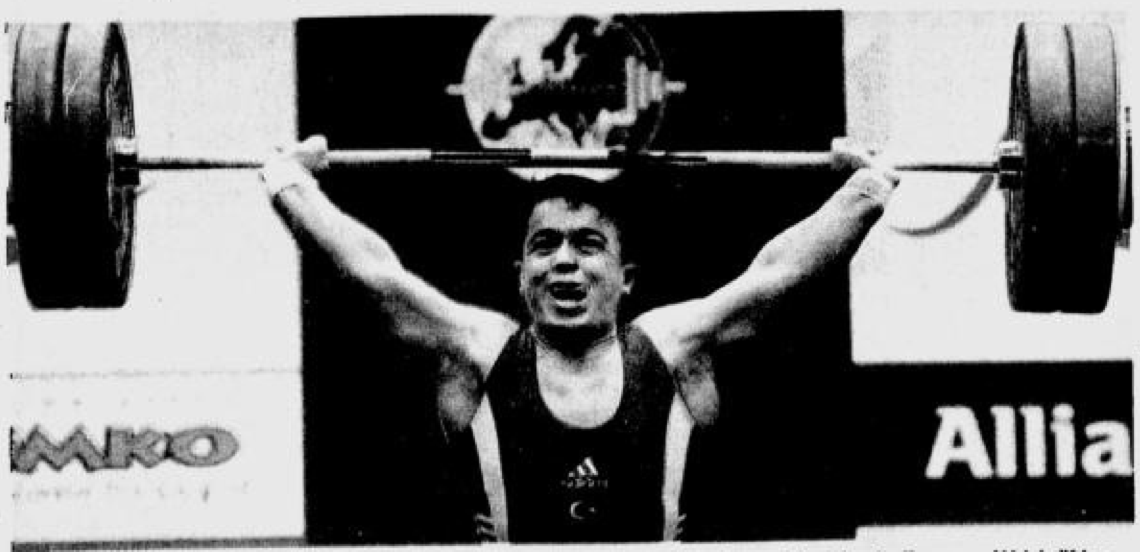
Out to extend his miseries at home are compatriots Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan and a gang of international pool stars.

Tipped to go deep in the double elimination tournament are Taiwanese stars Chao Fong Pang and Yang and former world champions Johny Archer of the United States, Mika Immonen of Finland and Thorsten Hohmann of Germany.

The other seeded players in the 32-man main draw are Japanese aces Satoshi Kawabata and Kunihiko Takahashi, Americans Gabe Owen, Corey Deuel and Charlie Williams, European howitzers Steve Davis, Tony Drago, Marcus Chamat, Thomas Engert and Alex Lely and 16-year-old Taiwanese Wu Chia-Ching.

The remaining slots will be filled by the top 12 finishers in the qualifying event slated on the first two days of competition.

The event co-organized by Solar Sports and Puyat Sports offers $20,000 to the champion, $10,000 to second, $4,000 each to the losing semifinalists, $2,000 each to fifth and sixth, $1,000 each to seventh and eighth, $750 each to ninth to 12th, $500 each to 13th-16th, $300 each to 17th-24th and $200 each to 25th-32nd.



DRUG-USING CHAMP: Halil Mutlu shows his winning form in the men's 62 kg (group A) of the the European Weightlifting Championship in Sofia. Turkey's three-time Olympic weightlifting champion faces being banned from competition for two years after he tested positive for a second time for an anabolic steroid, a Turkish official said June 16. Authorities had found nandrolone, an anabolic steroid that boosts muscle growth, in a urine sample provided by Mutlu during the Sofia event. AFP

World Slasher finals up today

THE "NCA World Slasher Cup 8—Cock Derby" enters its championship round today with 68 superb matches at the 17, 000—seat Araneta Coliseum.

After two days of electrifying pit action wit, three entries emerged at the top with four wins each: Tonio and Mica of Cavite cocker Mike Romulo, WG Gold Cup Raffy of William Go and Nene Abello and MJ Golden Circle Happy Birthday of Matt Bitanga.

With 3.5 points apiece were DTR Mapalad Gold Cup Mitchell of Escalona Brothers and Patrick Puno, BJ Tagle Special CAT of Edwin Tagle and Scepter Gerona RTA of Nonoy Gonzales.

The favorites are lagging behind with three wins each: Firebird BG of hotelier Biboy Enriquez, PEBR Complexor 3000 Mulawin IV of sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Blue Blade Farm of Sonny Lagon and Bruce Barnette, Liza Galore of Eddie Araneta, Gold Spartans Butch of Rey Briones, BL of Boy de Roca and EYB Air Assault of Ampil Brothers.

Myong Ji trounces USC 5, shares lead

DUMAGUETE CITY (via Mozcom)— South Korea's Myong Ji University trounced University of San Carlos, 88-65, yesterday to gain a share of the lead in the YKL 4th Asian University Basketball Championship: Carl Menky Ching Cup at the Lamberto Macias gym here.

Song Chang-moo scored 26 points and Kim Bong-su added 14 as the Koreans displayed awesome firepower throughout to secure their third win in four games and join West Negros College and Xiamen University at the top.

Xiamen University of Fujian, China, bested Cebu's Salazar College of Science Institute of Technology, 96-85, in the other match.

The 19-year-old Yang Kun was unstoppable the whole night, tallying 38 points, including 7 triples, to build a big 52-36 lead for Xiamen.

Aside from Yang Kun, starting center Huang Jing-jun wreaked havoc on the SIT Blazers' defense, connecting 18 of his 24 in the fourth period to hand the Cebuanos' fourth straight loss in the tournament being supported by the provincial government headed by George Arnaiz.

Huang also pulled down 19 rebounds and made seven assists for the Koreans. Ronilo Cabanero top-scored for SIT with 21 points, Nowell Balili added 20 points and Dante Enario 19.

With their second setback, the USC Warriors bowed out of contention and left Bacolod's WNC Mustangs, Xiamen and Myong Ji to dispute the two finals slots.

The Mustangs are expected to easily beat local team Silliman University and grab the first finals seat, while Xiamen and Myong Ji are disputing the second finals berth late yesterday. The winner in both matches collide for the title today.

Coach Jay Ramirez's Warriors were completely outfought, trailing by as many as 31 points, 73-42, as Lim Sang-wook and Park Kim-soo found their mark.

SPORTSWATCH

Makati Coliseum derby

ANOTHER bigtime 4-cock derby rages at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum on Monday, June 20 bannering more than 70 exciting and fast-paced encounters. To host the event is the FTE Happy Gamefarm Group and assisted by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp. Participants are reminded to submit entries tomorrow, Sunday, June 19, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and may contact 896-3545 or 895-6475 for inquiries.

CEC sportsfest Sunday

THE CROSSWORLD Mission Christ Enthroned Church sportsfest will be held on Sunday at the Astrodome, Valenzuela City. About 1,500 CEC members from Central, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Genel, Batak Palawan, Ubihan Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Bacolod are expected to participate. Honorary chair of the event is Pastor Al Termulo with Pastor Rey Isaac as co-chair. Eric Reyes has been designated overall chair with Jo Chua Sideno as tournament director. Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian and Jojo Lastimosa will be the special guests.

MCC standard chess on

THE MCC standard 90-minute chess tournament kicks off at 3 p.m. today at the J&F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. near LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The Unrated rapid 25-minute chess will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow. A total pot of P10,000 is at stake in each event where the standard champion gets the lion's share of P5,000. Interested parties may register before the tournament starts or call MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069. Free registration for titled players.

Darts Classic resumes

THE PEARL Darts Classic 2005 resumes today at the Pearl Billiards/Darts and Bar at Pearl Plaza Mall, 165 Quirino Ave. (near Baclaran), Tambo, Parañaque City. For inquiries log on at www.dartcounphil.cjb.net.or call Amante Santos at telefax 843-6456.

So settles for draw, but nears crown

FIDE Master Wesley So saw his winning streak halted, but his draw with Chen Kai-Jun of Singapore in the seventh round was enough to retain solo leadership in the boys' under-12 of the 6th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship Thursday at the Hotel Jomtien in Pattaya, Thailand.

So's 6.5 points was a full point clear of his closest pursuer and eighth round opponent Hua Thien Tan of Vietnam.

SO

Jan Emmanuel Garcia enhanced his chances of landing at least in the top three of the boys' under-10 after beating Masruri Rahman of Indonesia and improving to 5.0, a point shy of solo leader Yeap Eng Chiam of Malaysia.

Julius Joseph De Ramos rebounded in the boys' under-18, crushing Chan Peng-Khoon Gerald of Singapore to push his total to 4.0 and barge into the top five of his bracket.

Jesus Alfonso Datu also checked his slide in the boys' under-16, but his draw with Tapanut Wongklahan of Thailand failed to bring him back into contention. He only managed 3.0 points in seven games.

Chardine Cheradee Camacho, on the other hand, lost to Nguyen Ngoc Phuong Khanh of Vietnam in the eighth and penultimate round to kiss her title hopes goodbye in the girls' under-12. She was stuck at 4.5.

3rd Asean Para Games stakes over 500 medals

OVER 500 medal events in 10 sports disciplines will be up for grabs in the 3rd Asean Para Games to be hosted by the country later this year, according to the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee.

More than 1,000 athletes and 300 officials from 11 countries are participating in the event set Dec. 12-21. It features 10 regular sports and four demonstration events for the visually impaired, orthopedically handicapped, intellectually disabled and those with cerebral palsy.

This was bared by Papgoc officials in a recent gathering of different sports associations and organizations for the differently abled at the Skyline Restaurant in Pasay City hosted by Skyline owner Erlinda Sunico.

Among the groups represented in the gathering were the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled (Philspada), Resources for the Blind, Manila Sports Council, Department of Tourism, National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons and various schools and universities collectively known as Para Games circle of friends.

The final number of medal events, however, has yet to be finalized by Papgoc. "That will depend on the number of participants and the funding," said Papgoc chief Michael Barredo.

Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, Singapore and East Timor have confirmed their participation, with their final rosters expected to be submitted later this month.

Barredo said modifications will be made in hotels, airports and competition venues to suit the differently abled, among them the installation of collapsible ramps for wheelchairs.

Talks with transport companies are also going on for the conversion of buses to accommodate participants using wheelchairs and other special equipment.

"This is one of the major challenges, making the venues and transportation suitable for the athletes," said Barredo. "We assure the participants that we will be ready in time for the games."

"It's about time that an event like this is held in the Philippines," said Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza, chief of the games committee for programs and ceremonies.

Athletics, which has the biggest number of events estimated at 245, swimming (214), wheelchair tennis (6), badminton (14) and judo (14) will be played at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, powerlifting (18) at Robinson's Place Manila, table tennis (38) at the GSIS gym in Pasay City, wheelchair basketball (1) at Emilio Aguinaldo College gym, chess (8) at the Century Park Sheraton and goalball (1) at the San Andres Gym.

Cebu Racing Group rules Asian Karting Open

CEBU Racing Group bagged three of the five titles in the recent 2005 Asian Karting Open Championship kickoff at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The team survived the absence of chief engineer Jed Neri, drawing strong showing from reigning Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli and 11-year-old John Alvarez.

Guidicelli achieved another rare double with his victory in the premiere ICA Open and the Rotax Max Seniors class while Alvarez drove away early from the pack to capture the Cadet 60 expert crown.

Two other CRG drivers, Ivan Carapiet and Vencer Suba, likewise posted impressive finishes.

Carapiet made it a 1-2 for CRG in the Rotax Seniors class as he checked in just 0.169 of a second behind Guidicelli while Suba, the youngest in the team at age 9, emerged 4th overall in the Cadet 60 Expert Class.

The team is supported by Addict Mobile AMP, Swatch, Penshoppe, Paramount Insurance, Pepsi, Bridgestone and Oakley.

"We struggled getting the right setup at the start, said CRG team manager Gianluca Guidicelli. "But as the races progressed, the drivers were able to give valuable feedback to the mechanics and made crucial decisions with regard to their kart setup that led to their well-deserved victories."

Alvarez came as CRG's biggest surprise in the event. An exceptionally focused driver for his age, his wet-weather practices with Guidicelli proved vital in mastering similar conditions to bag the Cadet 60 plum on his very first international race.

Suba likewise displayed determination and consistency as a karting neophyte as he even upstaged more experienced rivals in the race.

THE CEBU racing group with their trophies garnered in the recent 2005 Asian Karting Open Championship kickoff at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. From left to right: Ivan Carapiet (runner-up, Rotax Seniors), Matteo Guidicelli (champion, ICA and Rotax Seniors), Vencer Suba (Cadet 60 Novice runner-up, Cadet 60 Expert 4th placer) and John Alvarez (champion, Cadet 60 expert class).

Philippines all set for 2005 International AdFest

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer recently organized a Pre-Cannes Send-Off Luncheon for this year's Philippine delegation to the 52nd Cannes International Advertising Festival. As festival representative, PDI paid tribute to 40 of the most brilliant and creative minds of the local advertising landscape.

For the first time, the Philippines will be represented in the festival jury by McCann Chairman Emeritus Emily Abrera. The country will also be competing for the first time in the Young Creatives Competition. The Philippine team is composed of Ben Berdin, Jr. and CJ Jimenez of Jimenez Basic.

In her Welcome remarks by Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, she challenged the delegates to take home the most elusive Lion and put the country in the map of global advertising. With so much ardor and faith in Filipino ingenuity, this dream may soon be realized with the notable increase in the number of Philippine entries from 67 to 125 this year. The entries per category include 25 for film, 36 for press, 37 for outdoor, four for cyber, four for media, 3 for direct and 16 for radio.

The country will also be sending its biggest delegation yet. The 2005 delegates include BBDO's David Guerrero, Raul Panes and Joel Limchoc; DDB's Roger Pe; Lowe's Mariles Gustilo and Frances Ramos; McCann's Patricia Arches; Harrison Communication's Teeny Gonzales; TBWA's Melvin Mangada, Jimmy Santiago and Tanke Tankeko and PDI's Rene Reinoso, Felipe Olarte and PDI press representative, Angel Guerrero.

While competition is expected to be tough with more than 22,000 entries worldwide, hopes are high the Philippines will make its mark this time.

Philippine delegates to the 52nd Cannes International Advertising Festival 2005 are all set for the international competition as they posed for a group photo together with PDI president and CEO, Sandy Prieto Romualdez (center); AdBoard officers and board of directors led by Cerge Remonde (6th from R) and McCann Erickson Chairman Emeritus Emily Abrera, (6th from L).

CANNES LIONS 2005 ENTRIES UP 18%

London – 26 May 2005 – The organisers of the Cannes Lions 52nd International Advertising Festival today announced a total of 22,101 entries will be competing at this year's event, an overall increase of 18% versus last year. Without taking into account the two new categories, the increase is 12%.

	2004	2005	% Variation
Lions Direct	1209	1614	+33.5%
Media Lions	875	1076	+23%
Press	5962	6699	+12%
Outdoor	4017	4667	+16%
Cyber Lions	1561	1897	+21.5%
Radio Lions	n/a	1020	New Category
Film	5082	4995	-2%
Titanium Integrated	n/a	133	New Category
TOTAL	18705	22101	+18%

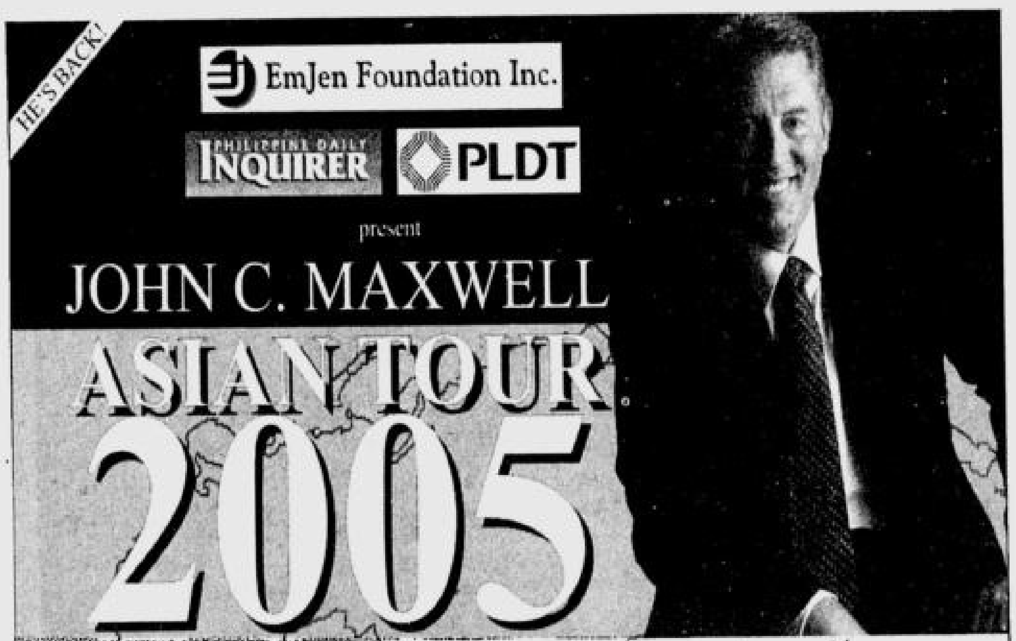
"It's been a great year for Lions Direct, Media Lions, Cyber Lions and Press & Outdoor. We are particularly pleased to see Radio and Titanium entries start so strongly, this is a good indicator for the success of these categories in the future" said Terry Savage, Festival CEO.

52nd International Advertising Festival
CANNES LIONS 2005
19 - 25 JUNE

The 52nd International Advertising Festival will be held 19-25 June 2005 in Cannes, France.

The International Advertising Festival - Cannes Lions - is the largest gathering of worldwide marketing and advertising professionals, as well as the most prestigious advertising awards. Each year, about 8,000 visitors from the advertising and allied industries attend this event to celebrate the crème de la crème of creativity in all major media, discuss industry issues and network with one another. Over 20,000 ads from all over the world are showcased at the Festival and a unique programme of high-profile seminars, organised by some of the biggest names in the industry, is also presented. Winning companies receive the highly coveted Lion awards, honouring the most creative TV/cinema, print, outdoor, online, radio and integrated advertising, as well as the best media and direct marketing solutions.

PDI president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez presents a special token to the 1st Filipino jury member of Cannes International Adfest Emily Abrera



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Friday, July 22, 2005, 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM, Araneta Coliseum

Who should attend this seminar?
Corporate executives, young professionals, business leaders, students, government employees, non-government organizations.

What is this seminar about?
You will discover that success is found on the well-traveled journey, not at a destination.

Defining success is a difficult task. Most people equate it with wealth, power and happiness. However, true success is something you do not acquire or achieve. Rather, it is a journey you take your whole life long.

In a refreshingly straight-forward style, Dr. John Maxwell shares unique insights into what it means to be successful.

DEVELOPING THE LEADERS AROUND YOU
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
CEOs, Senior Management, business owners and entrepreneurs, government officials and leaders.

What is this seminar about?
Supremely practical, this seminar is about strategies that help you effectively transform your dreams into reality by building up your people. Emphasizing that your organization can't grow unless its members grow, Dr. John Maxwell encourages you to identify and train potential leaders. You'll learn how to foster productive team spirit, make difficult decisions, what to look for in promising leaders, ways to nurture, encourage and equip people, how to handle confrontation and much more.

WINNING WITH PEOPLE
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
CEOs, Senior Management, business owners and entrepreneurs, government officials and leaders.

What is this seminar about?
Successful CEOs, entrepreneurs, top salespeople all agree: the characteristic most needed for success in leadership positions is the ability to work with people.

Some people are born with great relationship skills, but those who are not can learn to improve them. In Winning With People, John Maxwell has translated decades of experience into People Principles that anyone can learn.

Some principles are intuitive, such as the Lens Principle: Who We Are Determines How We See Others. Others principles may go against your instincts, such as The Confrontation Principle: Caring For People Should Precede Confronting People. All of them are 100% practical!

For inquiries and ticket reservations, please visit johnmaxwell.emjen.org or call 885-7049 (free delivery). Tickets are also available at all SM-Ticketnet outlets located at the SM Department Store Customer Service area and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booths. For inquiries and reservations, please call 911-5555.

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Marketing Institute of the Philippines
The Education and Training Arm of the
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
presents a seminar on
BRAND MANAGEMENT
June 27, 28 & 30, 2005
(Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati

The concept of Brand Management has gone into an evolutionary process ever since it was introduced by Procter & Gamble in 1972. Several multinational companies introduced their own versions at various stages and the concept has been modified to adapt to the individual company's working environment and management style. This seminar will provide the participants with the essential working skills required in the brand management job.

Target Participants
This seminar is suites for new recruits in the brand management job or those who may already be doing a brand management function, but still has no extensive job orientation. Managers coming from brand-related field i.e. sales, advertising, promotions, media and public relations as well as undergraduate or faculty handling a brand management course will likewise benefit from this seminar.

Seminar Objectives
At the end of this seminar on Brand Management, participants will learn the key essentials of the brand management function. The following key functional tasks will be dealt extensively: An introduction to Brand Management, Crafting the Brand Personality, Brand Strategies that lead to Success, Understanding Brand Research and Measurement and Revitalizing and Managing Brands Over Time.

Methodology
Lectures, exercises, plus the brand marketing plan project will equip participants with the right job orientation. Hands-on practitioners should be able to share pragmatic insights about brand management.

REGISTRATION FEES
PMA Member · Php 5,000.00
Non-PMA Member · Php 6,000.00

Registration fees are inclusive of seminar manual identification card and snacks.
Certificate of Participation will be given to those who will attend at least 75% of the session.
Cancellation of any reservation must be one week before the seminar on formal written letter.
Please make check payable to the PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.

For inquiries, please call up the
Philippine Marketing Association Secretariat
c/o Ms. Lydia Mariñas
Tel. nos. 634-5722; 634-4890; 633-9470; 636-1451
e-mail: lydiamm@edsamail.com.ph

SEMINAR PROGRAM
Day 1 – June 27, 2005 (Monday)
Introductory Session – 1:00 – 1:30 pm
Session Chair: MS. MARIVIC AC-AC
Professor, San Beda College
Session Chair

Session 1 – 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Introduction to Brand Management
Defines the context of strategic brand management by taking the participants through a historical review o branding, by defining what a brand is why brands matter, how anything can be branded and what customer-based brand equity is all about.
Speaker: DR. LEONARDO R. GARCIA, JR.
Dean, School of Professional & Continuing Education
DLS-COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE

Session 2 – 3:45 – 5:30 pm
Understanding Brand Research and Measurement
Exposes the participants to multiple marketing research measures that can help brand managers understand what is happening to their brands.
Speaker: MR. RICARDO C. DE VERA
Consultant, DTI
Certified International Trainor (Singapore)

BRIEFING ON THE FINAL PROJECT - 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Day 2 – June 28, 2005 (Tuesday)
LINK-UP SESSION – 1:00 – 1:30 PM

Session 3 – 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Crafting The Brand Personality
One important aspect of the brand is its personality as reflected in the associations that consumers hold toward the brand.
Speaker: DR. KAREN V. DE ASIS
Marketing Director
DE LA SALLE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Session 4 – 3:45 – 5:30 pm
Brand Strategies That Lead to Success
This session provides the participants with insights on how best to design branding strategies.
Speaker: MR. JUN G. ALCANTARA
Vice President for Marketing
ASIA BREWERY, INC.

BRAINSTORMING – 5:30 - 6:3-0 pm

Day 3 – June 30, 2005 Thursday)
LINK UP SESSION – 1:00 – 1:30pm

Session 5 – 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Revitalizing and Managing Brand Over Time
One of the challenges in managing brands is the many changes that occur in the marketing environment.
Speaker: MS. MA. TERESA V. GARGANTIEL
Senior Executive Officer
JIMENEZ BASIC

PRESENTATION OF CASES/SUMMATION - 3:45 - 5:30 pm

SPORTS

Bobby Pacquiao challenges tough Navarro today

PHILIPPINE super-featherweight champion Bobby Pacquiao embarks on his biggest fight to date as he vies for the WBC Continental Americas super-featherweight title today against reigning champion Carlos Navarro over 12 rounds at the Table Mountain Casino in Friant, California.

This will be a key fight for Pacquiao if only to prove a point: Last year, Navarro knocked out Agapito Sanchez, the same fighter who drew with Bobby's elder brother, Manny, in their foul-infested fight in 2001.

Prior to departing for the United States, Pacquiao sparred against top fighters, including WBF champ Dindo Castañares, RP junior welter champ Bart Abapo, OPBF titlist Randy Suico, RP welter champ Dondon Sultan, and WBO Asia Pacific bantam king Rey Bautista, at the famous ALA Gym in Cebu.

"There is no way I am going to take any opponent lightly and that includes Bobby Pacquiao," Navarro (26-3-1, 21) said in a press release sent by his camp. "He didn't come here all the way from the Philippines to lose."

Pacquaio (21-11-3, 9 KOs) will be seeing action in only his second fight in the US. He has defended the RP title five times. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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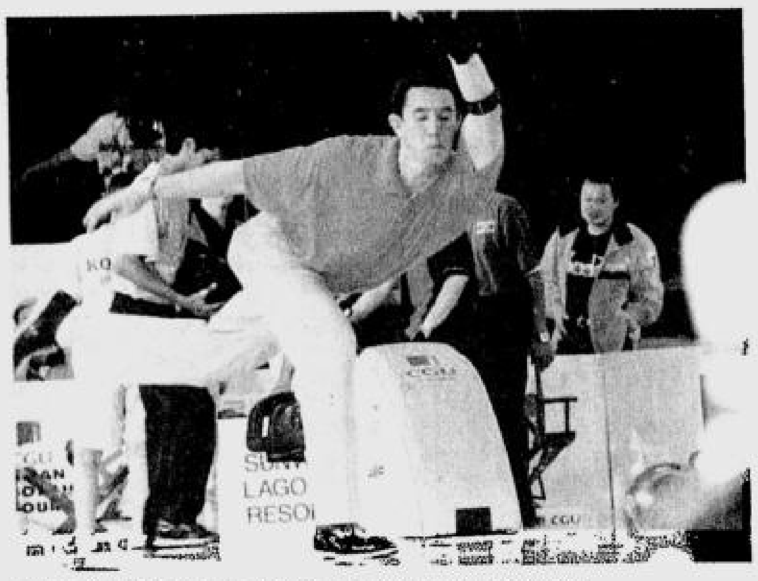
Also available at: Time Trend (SM Mega) • Stellux (Manila) • Washington (Makati and Alabang)

Paeng settles for 2nd to Malaysia's Zulkifli

TOP Malaysian bowler Zulmazran Zulkifli toppled 1881 pinfalls yesterday to rule the men's all events title over four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno in the 34th Philippine Bowling Congress (PBC) Euro-Med International Open Championships at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque City.


NEPOMUCENO falls short by 68 pins in the men's all events.

Zulkifli, winner of this year's ABF Tour Malaysia leg, scored 968 in singles, 434 in doubles and 479 in trios to beat local hope Nepomuceno by 68 pins.

TBAM's Jeff Chan wound up third with 1810.

Taiwan's Hung Tsai-feng topped the ladies all events with 1781 (937-416-428) over Malaysia's Tang Joh Six (1695) and her compatriot Chou Miao-lin (1671).

Fourteen-year-old Holly Josef of PBAP-Bowlmart captured the women's graded masters title with 2334.

Josef, a rookie member of the national youth team, pooled lines of 176-190-227-172-184-219-203-234-189-190-176-174 to pocket P50,000 winner's purse.

National youth team member Marjo Reyes of TBAM-Prima rolled 2276 to finish second, 34 pins ahead of the third-placed Amalyna Kelana of Malaysia.

ATBA-Timberpro's Edward Coo bowled a 2397 series to nail the men's graded masters title and the champion's prize of P90,000.

TBAM-Prima's Nico Valderrama (2385) and TBAM-Prima-Powerbowl's (2366) placed second and third, respectively.

In the associate masters finals, PBA's Benny Almazar topped men's play with 1965, followed by MCTBA's Bobot Pura (1917) and TBAM's Ricky Esteban (1856).

The top three finishers in the ladies division were PBA's Susan San Diego (1821), Nelia Santos (1810) and SJBA's Janneth Tan (1771).

Meanwhile, Chinese Taipei's Cheng Chao-sheng and Wang Yu-ling topped the first round of the men's and women's Open masters finals, respectively.

Cheng had an 1866 series (249-255-223-246-225-236-208-222) to take a 20-pin lead over compatriot C.L. Hsiao (1846). Thailand's Surasak Manuwong (1831) was third followed by Biboy Rivera (1764), ABF Tour Indonesia leg champion Shaker Al-Hassan (1668), Hamad Mohd Almajidi (1665), both of the United Arab Emirates, defending champion Joonee Gatchalian (1655), Hong Kong's Wu Siu-hong (1647) and Nepomuceno (1633).

In the ladies division, Wang bowled a 1788 series to show the way for teammates Y.C. Chu (1738) and Y.T. Wang (1707).

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Gran Copa de Manila stakes P1.35-M cash pot

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. and the City of Manila will host the 25th edition of the Gran Copa de Manila with an impressive lineup of races and a cash pot of P1.35 million at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

"The staging of the Gran Copa is indeed an opportune occasion for us to renew our commitment to provide our patrons and direct players with an ideal venue to showcase the best in local horse racing," said MJCI chair and chief executive officer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

"This is also meant to celebrate with the people of Manila headed by the honorable Mayor Lito Atienza the 434th Araw ng Maynila."

The total prize money staked in Division I is P500,000, and P300,000 for Division II. The 11 Invitational races will also stake P50,000 in cash for the first to fourth finishers in each race.

The races are sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Marho, Philtobo, Klub Don Juan de Manila and MJCI friends.

Atienza, Rep. Miles Roces and members of the city council have been invited to grace the event and award the replica of the permanent Gran Copa to the owner of the winning horse.

Champion galloper Empire King heads the elite field set to dispute the P300,000 prize purse in Division I sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom). The runner-up gets P112,500, while the third and fourth placers take P62,500 and P25,000, respectively.

Challenging Empire King are stakes campaigners Cool Runnings, West Bound and Freewind.

In Division II, eight gallopers will contest the P180,000 first prize. They are Flying Princess, Glamour, Hazmagic, Last Snip, Sir Brendan Jean, Speed O'War, Suppressed and Surprise Target.

Meanwhile, Speed Advantage battles Real Spicy anew in the Jaime V. Ongpin Cup, the second leg of the Triple Crown Stakes Series on Sunday next week, also at the SLLP.

Tagaytay rules team chess elims

TAGAYTAY City slowed down to a 2-2 draw against Bohol in the seventh round Thursday but still topped the elimination phase of the 2005 National Open Chess Team Championship Thursday at the St. Michael College Gym in Iligan City.

The powerhouse squad bankrolled by Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino finished with 13 match points in seven rounds, four points ahead of second placers Sum-Ag NHS and Tacloban A.

Bohol's courageous stance, however, failed to buy Bohol a seat in the next round as it finished only eighth overall, two notches below the cut.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio and Edmundo Gatus won for Tagaytay while Glen Pardillo and Nelson Villanueva scored the equalizer for Bohol.

EVENING RACES

Manila celebrates founding with CSI

THE CYCLING Search Invitational Series marks its big return with a criterium race around the fabled walls of Intramuros as one of the highlights of the 235th celebration of the Araw ng Maynila on June 24.

The race will be staged at night—a first in the history of local cycling.

Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza said the CSI criterium race is a welcome addition to the list of events celebrating the founding of the City of Manila.

"We all know that the city's history is intertwined with Intramuros," said Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and a former national taekwondo athlete. "The staging of the first CSI race this year around its walls will give our Araw ng Maynila celebrations a fiesta-like atmosphere."

The organizing Treo Sales and Management Corp. is grateful for the help of the Philippine Postal Corp. as well as the Intramuros Administration and Philippine Tourism Authority for permitting the CSI race to be staged in Intramuros.

The CSI series aims to discover young cycling talents without pitting them directly against the national riders.

The criterium has been classified into five categories: youth for men, female open, elite men, elite pro and masters.

Golden Tour champion Warren Davadilla, 2004 Tour Pilipinas king Rhyan Tanguilig and 1996 Marlboro Tour titlist Victor Espiritu have been invited to spice up the bikefest.

SATURDAY Special
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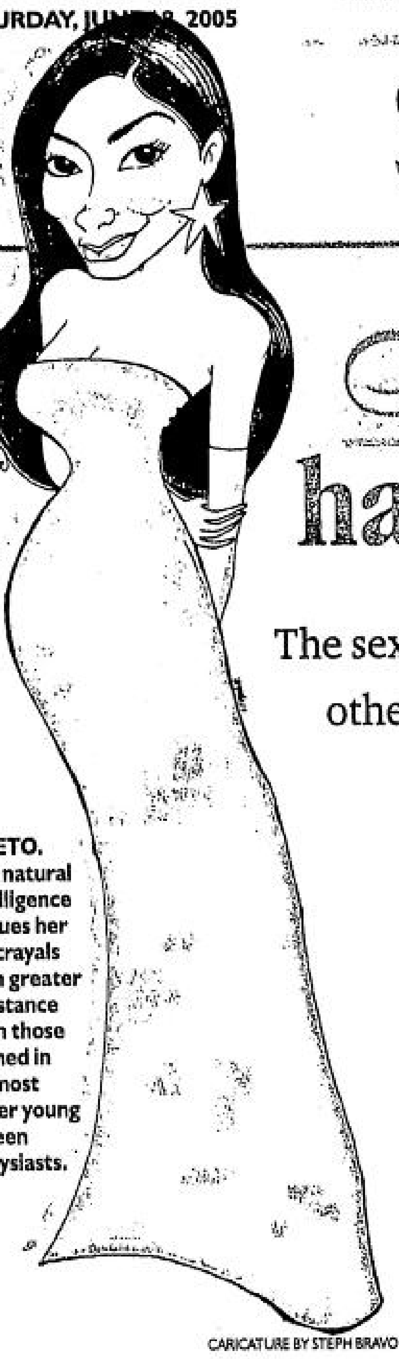
Francine Prieto has come a long way

The sexy actress pretty much upstaged "Bikini Open's" other lead actresses with her exceptional beauty, height and kittenish appeal



PRIETO. Her natural intelligence imbues her portrayals with greater substance than those turned in by most other young screen ecdysiasts.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

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By Nestor U. Torre

FRANCINE Prieto didn't have the top female role in the recent sexy movie, "Bikini Open," but she pretty much upstaged the film's other lead actresses with her exceptional beauty, height and kittenish appeal.

She's come a long way from her skittish performances in her early sex flicks. Her natural intelligence imbues her portrayals with greater substance than those turned in by most other young screen ecdysiasts.

Now that she's lost some weight, her allure and stature have been further enhanced. Frankly, when we look at Francine these days, we think she looks too tall, too good to be limited to acting in movies for the local and regional markets.

Sophistication

We think that Francine has got what it takes to make it internationally—not just because she's tall and fair, but because she has acquired a beguiling sort of offhand sophistication that viewers abroad would find attractive.

We're not even talking sexy movies here, because they're rather passé when it comes to legit world cinema. With some more training, exposure and perhaps dialogue and script interpretation lessons, Francine could come up with sexy *and* witty characterizations in breezy romantic comedies for the world market.

Let's hope that her home studio, Seiko Films, sees value in this observation, and enlarges the context of its plans for its prized stellar property. We're not saying that this will happen tomorrow, because a lot of training and refocusing of attitudes would definitely be involved, but we believe that Francine has got what it takes to really move up in the film world.

Romantic-comedy vehicle

For starters, Seiko should conceptualize a classy, sexy romantic-comedy vehicle for Francine, one in which she doesn't share stellar billing with other female stars. Give her a number of interesting leading men to show off the different facets of her screen personality, and watch Francine truly come into her own.

With that singular stellar vehicle, which should be good enough to be subtitled and released abroad, she will be able to make the significant transition to international screens that we envision for her.

If she manages to do this, she'll be joining a very select group of Filipino movie stars who've played choice roles in international films. They include Barbara Perez, who co-starred with Jeffrey Hunter in "No Man Is an Island"; Cesar Montano in "The Great Raid," which will finally hit the screens this year; Billy Joe Crawford in the spurned "Exorcist" prequel; plus Pancho Magalona, Vic Silayan, Vic Diaz, Tita Muñoz, Paolo Montalban and Jose Llana in other productions.

Limited list

That's a rather limited list, because acting for an international audience requires, not just fascinating looks and artistic temperament, but also an informed, ambitious and creative mind-set that's hard to come by on the parochial and insular local entertainment scene.

Francine Prieto could be the latest exception who proves the rule!

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Tribute to a true leading lady of Philippine theater

By Behn Cervantes

BY the mid-'60s, theater aficionados in Manila were seriously talking of creating professional Philippine theater. They recognized the contributions of Jean Edades, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, Severino Montano, Naty Crame Rogers and Bert and Daisy Avellana. Those pioneers did it for love and kisses, no matter the blood, sweat and tears they unselfish poured into their dramatic ventures over many decades.

Young theater addicts were inspired by the Actors' Studio, Stanislavski and the critical success of Off-Broadway experimental theater. If it could be done in the States, why not here?

It was surprising, therefore, that the likes of Rolando Tinio, Zeneida Amador, Cecilia Guidote, and Antonio Mabesa went for further studies and training abroad. When they returned, they went their disparate ways to create the much-desired ferment in Philippine theater.

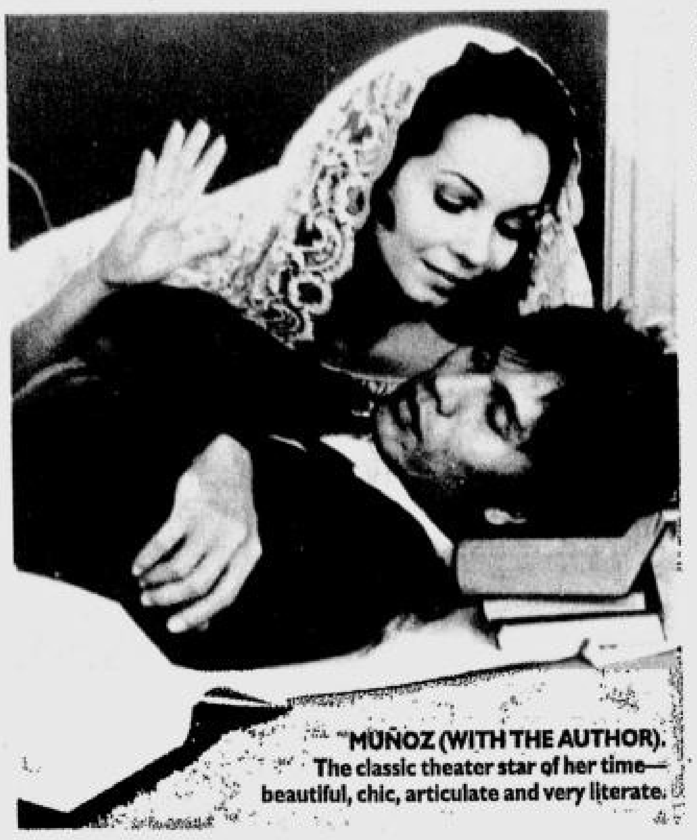
Expertise

Montano had already returned with a Ph.D. in Theater Management, and indeed his expertise was manifest in the manner he developed Arena Theater, which he brought to the provinces in his desire to create "grassroots" theater.

Radically different

Rolando Tinio was radically different from his more classically-oriented predecessors. For his type of theater, he needed a different ilk of actors. He wanted them literate, committed and charismatic.

Fortunately, such a special talent was around. She was Tita Muñoz, an Elizabeth Taylor look-alike who had been in radio, movies, and early Philippine television. She was also one of the few Filipino actors who were cast in important roles at the Manila Theater Guild, Manila's foremost dramatic group meant for Manila's expats, that produced American plays in a professional manner.


MUÑOZ (WITH THE AUTHOR). The classic theater star of her time—beautiful, chic, articulate and very literate.

Heavy drama

Tita was the classical leading lady—beautiful, chic, articulate and very literate. She also spoke English with the proper Continental accent, at a sultry contralto pitch. She could do heavy drama and sophisticated comedy equally well. Her range was indeed phenomenal, so *la* Muñoz was the perfect foil for Tinio's theater pieces.

It became an accepted fact that when Rolando would think up a new and radically-different production, Tita would be the star. Young Manila theater diehards would make it a point to queue up for tickets when a Tinio-Muñoz project would open.

They would thereafter talk in superlatives about Tinio's latest theatrical derring-do, and Muñoz' talent, beauty and singular power on stage.

By 1967, Zeneida *aka* Bibot Amador and Cecilia Guidote had both returned from US studies to form Repertory Philippines and the Philippine Educational Theater Association, respectively. PETA's major production in 1968 was a staging of three of NUT's Palanca award-winning plays. I directed "And A Happy Birthday" and was also cast by Joey Gosengfiao, a Muñoz fan, in "No Sadder Race." I finally had the opportunity to work with Tita!

Highlight

It was, of course, a highlight so chums like the late Ishmael Bernal exulted, "Hey, you've made it!" Indeed, I felt I did, for the experience was akin to acting with the great Anne Bancroft.

I think it is high time that an award be given to Tita for her unrecognized contribution to Philippine theater during its difficult years, and for her sterling professionalism, dedication and intelligence. During that period she was a fine role model for young aficionados and set high standards for professionalism when theater was still considered a "mere" avocation.

Michael Jackson, guilty or not guilty?

By Noelani Torre

JACKSON. Relieved.

THE CIRCUS that was Michael Jackson's trial is finally over. The tent has been folded away, and the main attraction is on his way out of town. People are still talking about the show, however, *and* about the "not guilty" verdict. We asked some people to air their views:

Support

"When he went out of the courthouse, he looked so tired! He didn't smile, and he didn't cry, either. He just managed to wave to his fans to acknowledge their support. I guess he was just relieved that it was over. But, he clearly wasn't happy.

"Now that the trial's over, he has nothing to go back to, anyway. Perhaps, he'll become a total recluse. But, no matter what, he will still be Michael Jackson. And there will still be fans like me who will go on admiring him."—*Adi Gonzales, 25, Davao*

"I still believe he's guilty!

All the evidence pointed against him. I don't know why the jury favored him. I have nothing against Jackson personally. But really, if you look at the case from all sides, he should have gone to prison!"—*Joe Bautista, 21, Quezon City*

"Well, he may be a wacko, but he's a good performer! *Ewan ko kung ano talaga ang ginagawa niya sa* Neverland, *kasi ang mga* witnesses—like Macaulay Culkin—said that it was all innocent fun. The fact is, the accusers didn't really see anything—they didn't have hard evidence.

"I remember the first child-molestation case filed against him. *Ang* question *ko:* Why did the kid's parents settle outside of court? Why settle if your kid was really molested? The whole thing sounded like blackmail and extortion. If you're a parent, would you want to make money out of your child's traumatic experience?

Out of the norm

"I think everything's worsened, because we tend to be biased by the way he looks—the whole Wacko Jacko thing, the fact that you have a place like Neverland—it's all out of the norm. A face like that—*puro retoke*—tells us that he doesn't love himself. Otherwise, why change anything, *di ba*?

"The thing is, people make money out of him—the accusers, the press. They focus on him because he sells. So, you also have to keep these things in mind."—*Jerry Guzman, 35, Laguna*

"I'm pretty sure the jury was able to examine the case, and I believe them! Besides, it would be a loss to the music industry if a great icon like him crashes. *Institusyon na siya,* and his songs are as legendary as he is."—*Louie John Vallejo, 19, Pasig City*

Valuable lessons in censorship recalled

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN the MTRCB recently weighed in with its decision to require TV talk shows to submit tapes for approval before airing, we weren't surprised. Neither were we caught off-guard when, just days later, the order was swiftly rescinded, after many media people howled in protest.

You see, we'd been there before—and therein lies an instructive, cautionary tale:

During the Martial Law period, our TV show, "Two for the Road," which we wrote and co-hosted with the late, great Elvira Manahan and was directed by Maria Montelibano, was one of the few programs that "dared" to feature guests from the opposition.

MANAHAN. A feature on Ninoy Aquino on "Two for the Road" sparked a controversy.

Deeply appreciated

It was also the only TV show that paid tribute to Ninoy Aquino on the day he died. Our 15-minute docu-tribute was deeply appreciated by many viewers, but was of course resented by the authorities.

As expected, the Board of Censors eventually decided to order "Two for the Road" to stop telecasting live. Instead, it had to tape all of its shows, and the tapes would have to be previewed by the BOC before they could be telecast.

This was a major cause of concern not only for us, but for other TV talk shows as well, because it would set an important precedent. Elvira, Maria and I knew this, so we met to decide what our next step would be.

After a thorough discussion, we agreed that, if the BOC insisted on its new regulation, we would simply stop telecasting, thus sending out a key message about media repression that would be difficult to ignore.

Threats

We were then called to a meeting with top BOC officials, and both sides stated their respective positions. At first, the mood of the BOC was light and courteous. But, when it became clear that we would not budge from our "intransigent" position, things turned decidedly darker, and threats were made.

Suffice it to say that we didn't soften in our stance: Allow "Two for the Road" to continue telecasting live, or it would stop production. After *five* long, stressful hours, the BOC relented, let us go with a warning, and allowed us to continue with our live telecasts.

From that highly-charged experience, we learned a number of valuable lessons: First, if you feel you're in the right, hold on to your view and fight for it—not just for yourself, but for others who could later find themselves in the same position.

Repression

Two, the media being so much in the public eye, the authorities may threaten and shout, but they're acutely sensitive to charges of repression, and you can use this to your advantage.

Third, decide on a unified course of action, don't waffle and break apart, and you will persevere in your cause.

These lessons were recently reaffirmed when the MTRCB took one step forward— and two steps back. TV people, be ever vigilant *and* responsible—and take heart!

Appreciating our Father

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WE all long for a loving father because, by nature, we need someone to protect and care for us. We need a father who will provide the basic necessities in life, and satisfy our inner need for love and affection. Unfortunately, we don't get that all the time. So, we seek it outside the home.

But, we need not look far, because we have the Supreme Father to supply all our needs.

Basic necessities

Our Holy Father provides us food for nourishment, and water and clean air—which we ourselves destroy and contaminate. He gives us herbs and medicinal plants and a wonderful ecosystem—which we exploit and turn into barren wastelands.

Our Father, whose many names are invested with transcendental potency, showers us with mercy by giving us knowledge and wisdom through the scriptures, and through the words of holy sages. He shows us the way to go back to our spiritual residence.

Yet, we turn our backs to him, and immerse ourselves in the superficial pleasures of the mundane world. We forget our bond with our real Father.

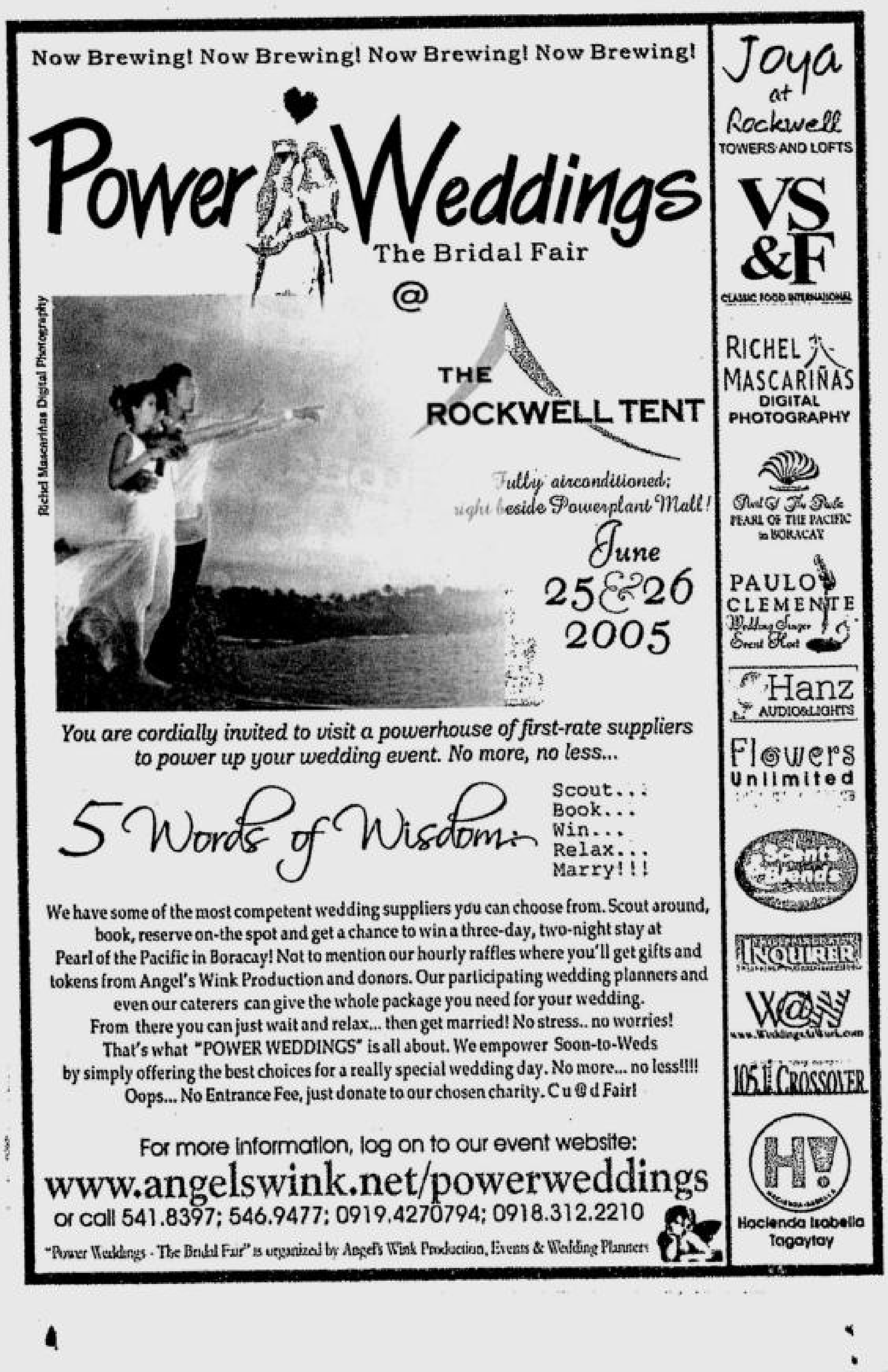
Our Father blessed us with opportunities from which we can grow and mature as spiritual beings. He speaks to us from within our hearts, which we hear as our conscience, telling us to identify right from wrong. But, we often ignore him.

Materialism and hedonism

We venture into the dark world of materialism and hedonism. When we stumble and fall, he reaches out to help us, but we push him away and blame him for our miseries.

But our Father simply awaits our return to his guidance, protection and refuge.

Love our Father, our sweetest friend and most caring Protector. Father's Day can only be meaningful if we show appreciation to the loving Father who truly cares for all of us!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Canadian actor finds home in Philippine theater

By Rito P. Asilo

FOUR years ago, Canadian choir conductor and voice coach John Mulhall didn't know what to expect when he and his Filipino wife, Marilou, decided to temporarily relocate from Toronto to Manila, so that the latter could take advantage of the considerably lower tuition rates for a degree in dentistry. When he arrived in Manila, he didn't just find an outlet for personal growth—he has also found a home!

With Manila's thriving theater scene in mind, John headed straight to acting workshops upon arrival and, shortly thereafter, made it to the cast of Trumpets' "The Little Mermaid" and Repertory Philippines' "Cinderella." He has since stacked up an impressive body of work that includes important roles in "Spoliarium," "Falsettos," "Honk," "Miong," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Secret Garden" and "Cabaret." Next on his thespic plate: Stages' "Footloose."

Pleasantly surprised

The quality and standard of Philippine theater astound him. He gushes, "I was pleasantly surprised to find so many people who could act, sing and dance—and do all three so well! It was amazing to see this boundless creativity coming together. It's easy to get 'consumed' by theater here, because there are many opportunities for employment if producers like the work that you do. It's also fascinating to see how easy it is for *Pinoys* to laugh at themselves—they have a natural knack for comedy, and a unique sense of comedic timing.

"Unfortunately, the most difficult thing for local performers is the fact that they work long hours for very little income. I understand that it's an economic issue, but it would also be wonderful to see brilliant artists recognized financially without their having to leave their country for more lucrative opportunities abroad. It's a shame that the income doesn't match the wealth of talent that I see in so many people."

Depth and meaning

What were his favorite productions? "I loved 'Falsettos' because of its depth and meaning, its cleverly written music, and the humor culled from an unconventional family situation. On paper, its themes on AIDS and homosexuality may sound heavy and bleak, but what you got from the show was the complete opposite. On the other hand, 'Cabaret' was simply a great show—bar none. 'Honk' was memorable because it marked the first time I played a complex role.

"Working on 'Spoliarium,' the musical on Juan Luna, was another wonderful experience because it was a pleasure to work with the phenomenal music of Ryan Cayabyab! His music is unique, and certain elements of it remind me of the compositions of Prokofiev, whose music I adore. In Ryan's songs, you hear an interesting clash and juxtaposition of sound and rhythm."

How was it working with KC Concepcion in "The Little Mermaid"? He recalls: "KC was very easy to work with. If I didn't know who she was (she went to International School, where John teaches), that she was the daughter of a megastar (Sharon Cuneta), I wouldn't have realized that she was somebody famous. For the most part, I notice that people (like KC, Carol Banawa and Monique Wilson) who are better-known publicly don't have the desire to put themselves above others."

Embarrassing moments

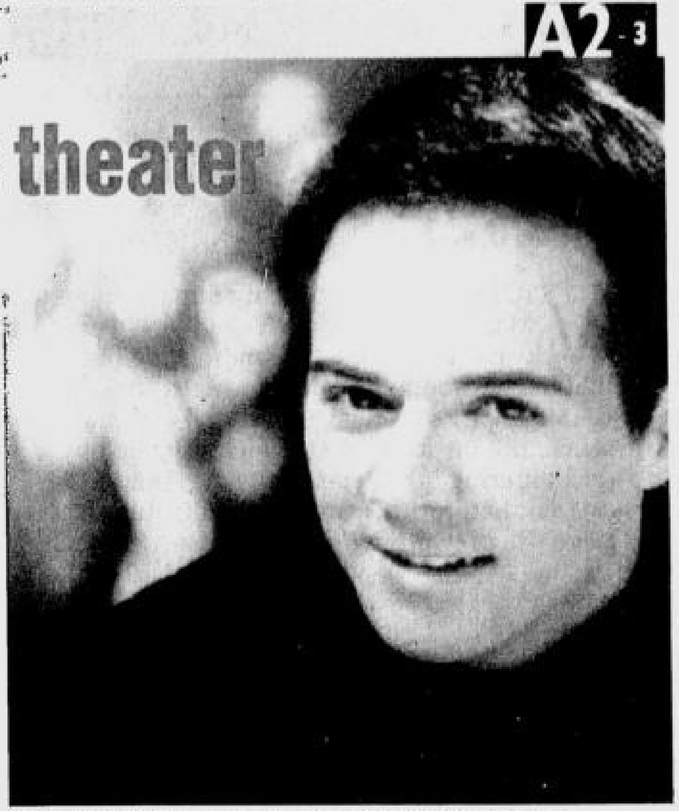
Interestingly, John hasn't been exempted from embarrassing moments onstage. He recounts: "During a performance in 'Cinderella,' I was crossing the stage while singing solo as Prince Charming when, suddenly, my shoe got stuck on the floor—it stayed behind as I walked! I had to go back and slip my foot back into the shoe. And this is 'Cinderella'—the prince isn't the one who is supposed to lose the shoe!"

In a Disney show, the thirtysomething actor played Aladdin to Shaina Magdayao's Jasmine, and sang "A Whole New World" with the teenage actress. He muses, "I had visions of people singing 'Dirty Old Man'!"

Whether he's playing a prince, a dirty old man, a Nazi fundamentalist, a dolphin, a swordfish or a merman, John says he's happy where he is—on the Philippine stage!

He reflects: "When I was growing up, I wasn't into team sports or clubs. I only had my piano teacher who, at 60, left her husband for a 22-year-old man! That's not the kind of role model I'd like my students to emulate. So, in whatever I do, I want to be a positive influence on young people's lives.

"As a performer, it's not always about having the spotlight to yourself—it's the satisfaction of being part of something substantial that emerges from people collaborating as a team!"



MULHALL. Prince Charming, not Cinderella, lost the shoe!

WILSON. Incredible feat.

Outstanding talents in 'Big Time'

By Rica Arevalo

THE tandem of director Mario Cornejo and producer Coreen Jimenez is an ideal partnership. Their film, "Big Time," is one of the finalists in the Cinemalaya Film Festival next month.

"Big Time" follows the hilarious misadventures of Jonas (Nor Domingo) and Danny (Winston Elizalde) as they attempt to hit the "big time" in the criminal underworld of kidnap gangs. Unfortunately, things don't turn out as planned.

Community

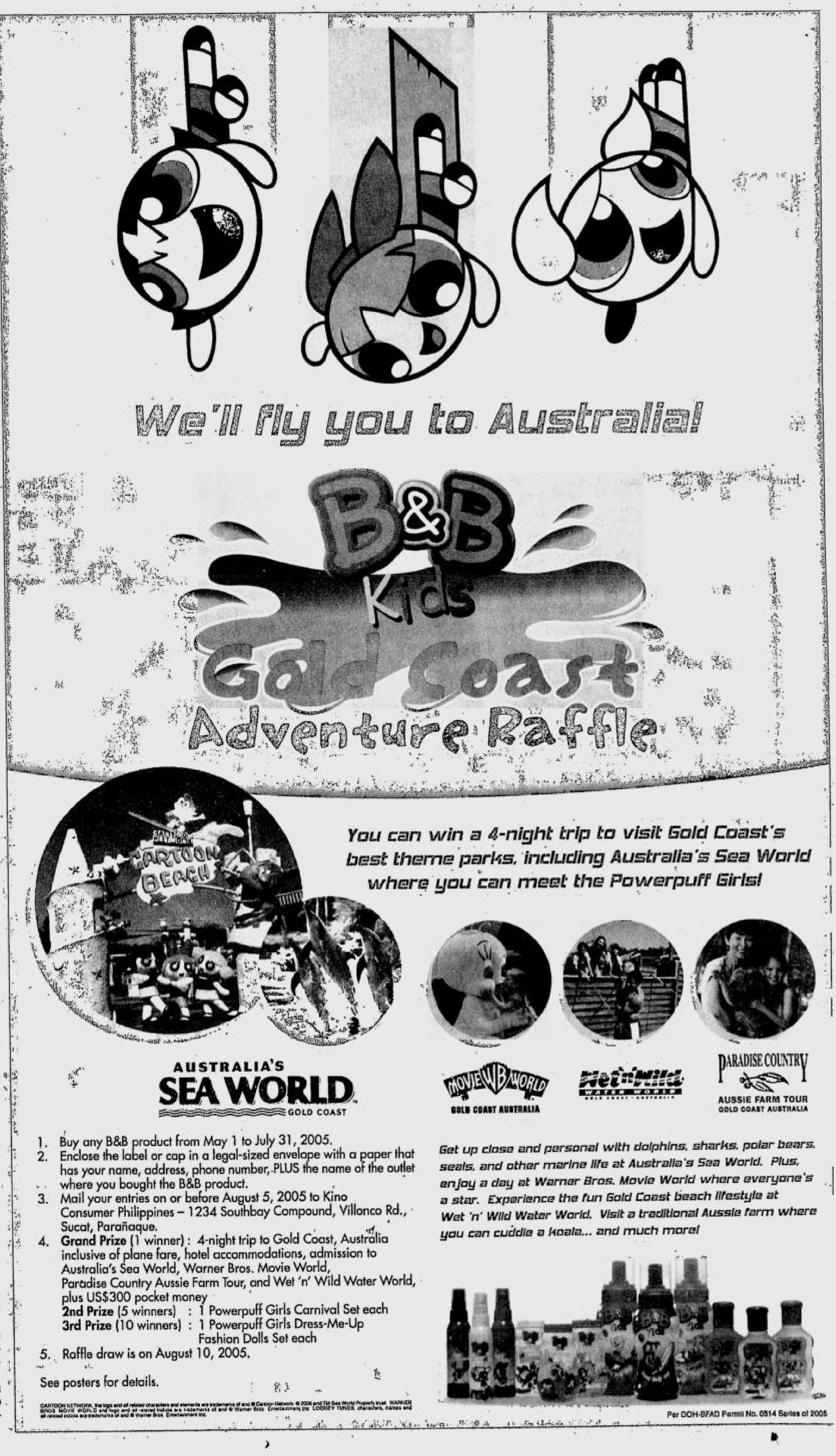
Cornejo was raised in Tambo, Parañaque, where the movie takes place. He says, "I was inspired by the community where I live, and the people I've met in my life. I thought a comedic crime-caper would be fun to tackle on film."

Jimenez, on the other hand, commends the actors who appear in the film. She adds, "Nor Domingo was a great sport. He went out of his way to coach the other actors. Winston Elizalde facilitated cold readings, and was a wonderful surprise. Michael de Mesa floored us with his deadpan humor."

Bratty son

And you can't go wrong with Jamie Wilson, who plays the bratty son of Don Manolo (De Mesa), the godfather of Pasay. "Jamie pulled off an incredible feat, playing a character who starts out as extremely likable, and transforms into a dangerous presence. He is an astounding talent," exclaims Mario.

What has Mario learned from his Cinemalaya experience? "I learned that the best way to make a movie is to hire the most talented people in the industry—and let them do their job!"



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Vic and Lynn Pareja celebrate golden milestone

By Nestor U. Torre

VIC Pareja was a student of architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology; Lena Strait was the youngest founding member of the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS). It is ironic that, after 50 years of existence, the institutions to which they belonged are encountering problems, but the year 2005 has proven that, for this couple, the institution of marriage will prevail—against all odds!

Vic drew up the plan for landscaping the Vera-Perez gardens for the debut of Doc Perez' eldest daughter, Marichu. Lena Strait was Doc's girl friday at Sampaguita Pictures. They had met at Torres High School after the war. When they decided to tie the knot, there was only one choice for their "Ninong": Dr. Jose R. Perez.

Marital wagon

"We felt that, by hitching our marital wagon to a star-maker, we would be nearer to heaven," they told friends, beaming.

That was 50 years ago. Flash-forward to Jan. 29 this year: The BF Homes clubhouse in Quezon City was transformed into a veritable wonderland: A flower-bedecked gazebo, candle-lit walkway adorned with lights, etc.

The production design, organized by daughter Vina and daughters-in-law Lyn, Marivic, Lou, Loida and Mako, looked every bit like a state-of-the-art golden wedding anniversary!

The wedding sponsor was 88-year-old "*Mama* Nene" Vera Perez, the epitome of grace, beauty, elegance and majesty, as she stood in place of her husband, Doc Perez, who passed away 30 years ago.

Truly, she was the guiding light and inspiration of the couple, who renewed nuptial vows in a fitting ceremony officiated by Rev. Fr. Albert Adams of the Couples for Christ, and Rev. Fr. Gerry del Prado.

HAPPY couple (seated) surrounded by family: (Front row) Paolo, Arel, Takanori, Gabriel, Migi and AJ. (Back row) James, Lou, Vena, Mako, Etsuko, Luming Distor, France, Iya, Marivic, Cesar, Lyn and Alex.

The Parejas have five sons and one daughter. The only girl, Vina, is Gary Valenciano's road manager. Eldest son Paul is a Yamaha keyboard wiz, who performs at the Royal Hotel in Japan.

Second son Alex handles poster design and art at Sampaguita Graphix. Peter is into computers and wireless-communication products.

Cesar, a lawyer, is director of plenary affairs at the House of Representatives. The youngest, James, is an animation artist at Fil-Cartoons Inc.

Background music

Real life sisters and sisters-in-law Lynn and Marivic supervised everything from production design to mass preparations, cocktails, soft violin background music and food galore.

Mako, the "imported" daughter-in-law, was busy escorting guests to their prescribed tables.

The other foreign-based daughter-in-law, Loida, could not make it because she was managing a Filipino restaurant near Disneyland, but she sent video clips of her family.

The youngest daughter-in-law, Lou Bunyi, a former "Miss Look of the Year" international model, supervised make-up, costumes and hairstyles.

Paolo and Migi were Vina's co-emcees for the show, while the other grandchildren were all over the place, attending to their various chores as altar boys, commentators, dance instructors and performers!

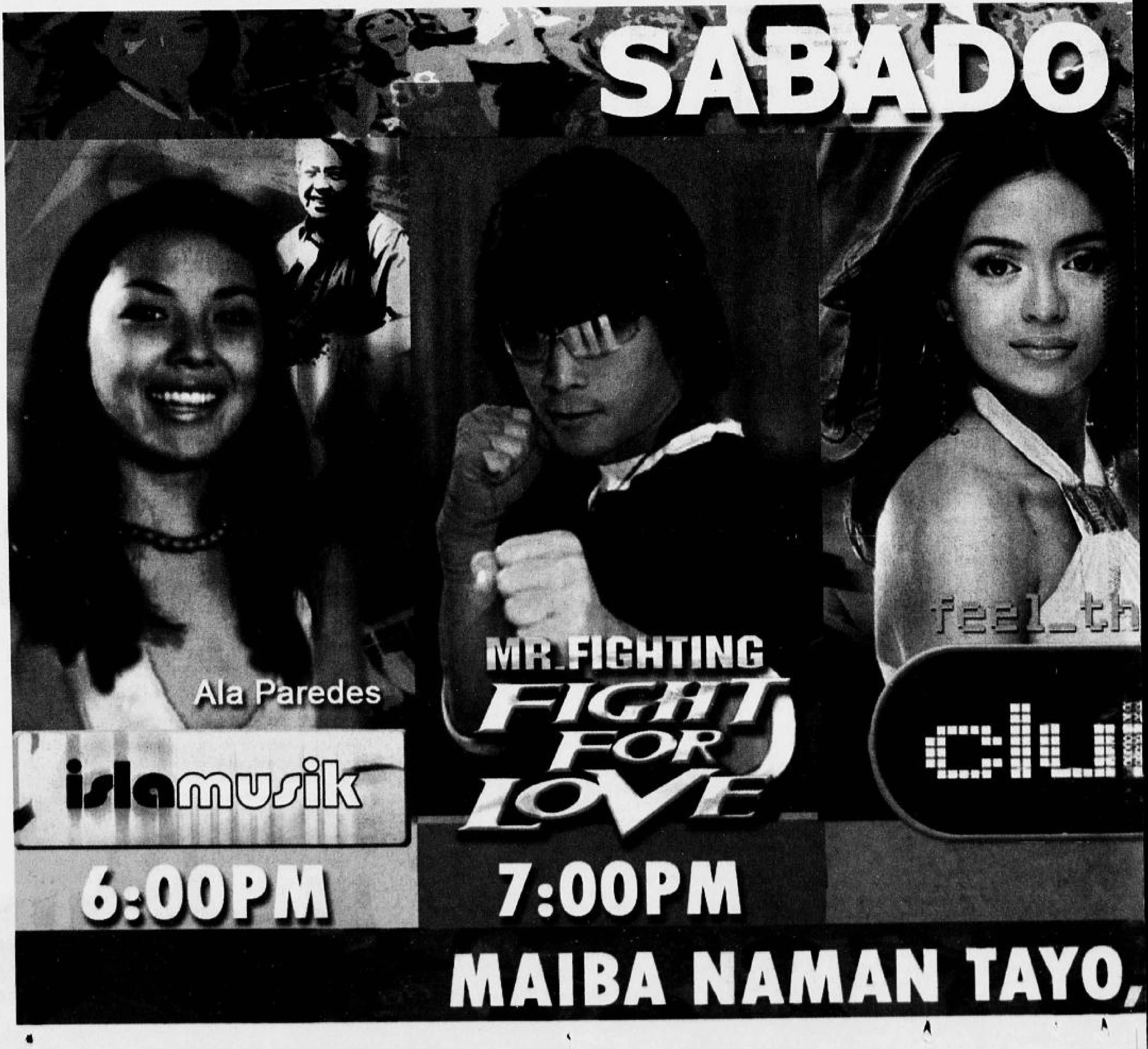
Evening to remember

It was an evening to remember. Marichu Vera Perez-Maceda was the keynote speaker, and she delivered a message that Vic and Lynn will long remember:

"After all that's been said and done, when you look back, regardless of whatever achievement you accomplish in life, the one good thing that is most important is family—and that is God's best gift to us!"

Vic and Lynn agreed—with all their hearts.

THE PAREJAS at their 1955 nuptials (left, with Dr. Jose Perez in the background), and at their 50th wedding rites.



Nyoy Volante hits the spot in intimate concert

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

VOLANTE. Rapport with the audience.

NYOY Volante and Mannos recently sang Beatles songs at an intimate concert at the Captain's Bar. Nyoy opened the show with "Here Comes the Sun" as he coolly strummed his guitar.

Then, Nyoy reminded us of the era of flower power, and hippies with "Drive My Car" and "Come Together."

"Because" got loud applause because Nyoy imbued the song with sensitivity and sincerity. He tried to copy Elvis Presley's style when he sang "My Darling."

Violin

Adding a violin to the treatment of "Yesterday" gave it texture and soul. The number was moving because Nyoy's voice was filled with longing and sadness.

"And I Love Her" had an upbeat and reggae flavor to it.

Nyoy serenaded the crowd and mingled with them as he sang "Till There Was You."

Soulful

"Here, There and Everywhere" and "If I Fell" were soulful and moving. It helped that Nyoy had already established rapport with the audience, so it was easy for him to connect with their sentimental and romantic side.

"I'll Follow the Sun," "All My Loving" and "You Got to Hide Your Love Away" kept the audience in high spirits.

Nyoy lent fire and passion to "Let It Be." And he unselfishly shared the spotlight with Rebekah in "In My Life," and they got thunderous applause.

Diverse playlist in 'AlmostKindaAcoustic 4'

By Noelani Torre

CABRERA. Light and fluffy.

THE "ALMOSTKINDAACOUSTIC" collection is aptly named: Half of the tracks aren't really acoustic, strictly speaking. More or less, they sound like they are, though, and we don't really care, as long as they sound good—and they do!

Lucrative series

The fourth volume in what appears to be a lucrative series—its full title is "AlmostKindaAcoustic 4"—this compilation is an enjoyable 70 minutes' worth of radio-friendly music.

It features a diverse playlist that ranges from the sunny pop of Ryan Cabrera to the earnest alt metal of Story of the Year, and the classic folk rock of Edie Brickell.

DIVERSE/ A2-6

Humperdinck looks forward to PICC concert

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week, we have a special treat for people who asked us to feature Engelbert Humperdinck in this section when they learned about his special show at the PICC next week, June 24.

Last week, we caught up with the 69-year-old balladeer, who immortalized such standards as "Release Me" and "Am I That Easy to Forget?," on the phone, during the Mumbai, India leg of his current world tour.

Jukebox staples

For our part, we knew Humperdinck's songs—whose covers (most of them by Victor Wood) were jukebox staples in the '70s—before we knew of the singer. Gerry Dorsey in real life, the celebrated singer is known for his shaggy sideburns and his three-and-a-half octave vocal range (Mariah Carey's is five octaves).

He was re-christened after the famous German composer ("Hansel and Gretel") who died 15 years before the crooner was born. Interestingly, he didn't even take singing seriously until he turned 17!

He shares, "It has been a wonderful journey kicked off by one song: I have recorded 76 albums so far, but the tune that paved a global career for me was my cover of 'Release Me,' which was recorded previously by country singer Ray Price and R&B chanteuse Esther Price."

Recently, he followed Tom Jones' career-revving tack of giving old ditties ("Kiss," "Sex Bomb") a more contemporary sound, and upped his hip cachet when he reworked "Lesbian Seagull" for the soundtrack of "Beavis and Butthead Do America."

New version

Then, he charted again in the UK with a new version of "Quando, Quando, Quando." His varied, eclectic taste in music is obvious: Nat "King" Cole, Paul McCartney, Sting, Elton John, Rod Stewart and Bryan Adams.

What are the secrets to his longevity? "I work hard. My songs are timeless because they have depth and meaning. Their melodies have lasting appeal—people see themselves in the stories of my songs."

His popularity also attracts overzealous admirers. He recalls: "During performances, while fans threw flowers at my good friend, Elvis Presley, they threw me panties—which I presented to Hard Rock Café for its memorabilia!" (He once joked on Arsenio Hall's now-defunct show: "I hate it when they throw their bras and panties at me. They're such a waste: None of them fits me!")

Any dreams left unfulfilled? He answers: "All my dreams have come true. I just pray that the wonderful journey never ends."

He does have one regret about a career trajectory he wished he could have explored when he was younger: Acting.

He explains, "When I was starting out, I did a bit of film work—nothing big. My manager then had scripts from Hollywood that would have turned me into a matinee idol.

Big money

"But, he didn't want to take me off the road, because that was where the big money was, and managers are greedy in that respect (laughs)—he just threw the scripts away!"

(His most recent acting ventures were both with Morgan Fairchild, in two made-for-TV movies: "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady," starring Christopher Lee as the famous sleuth, and "Even Angels Fall.")

Despite that one sour note in an otherwise impressive career, the legendary singer admits that there's a lot to be thankful for.

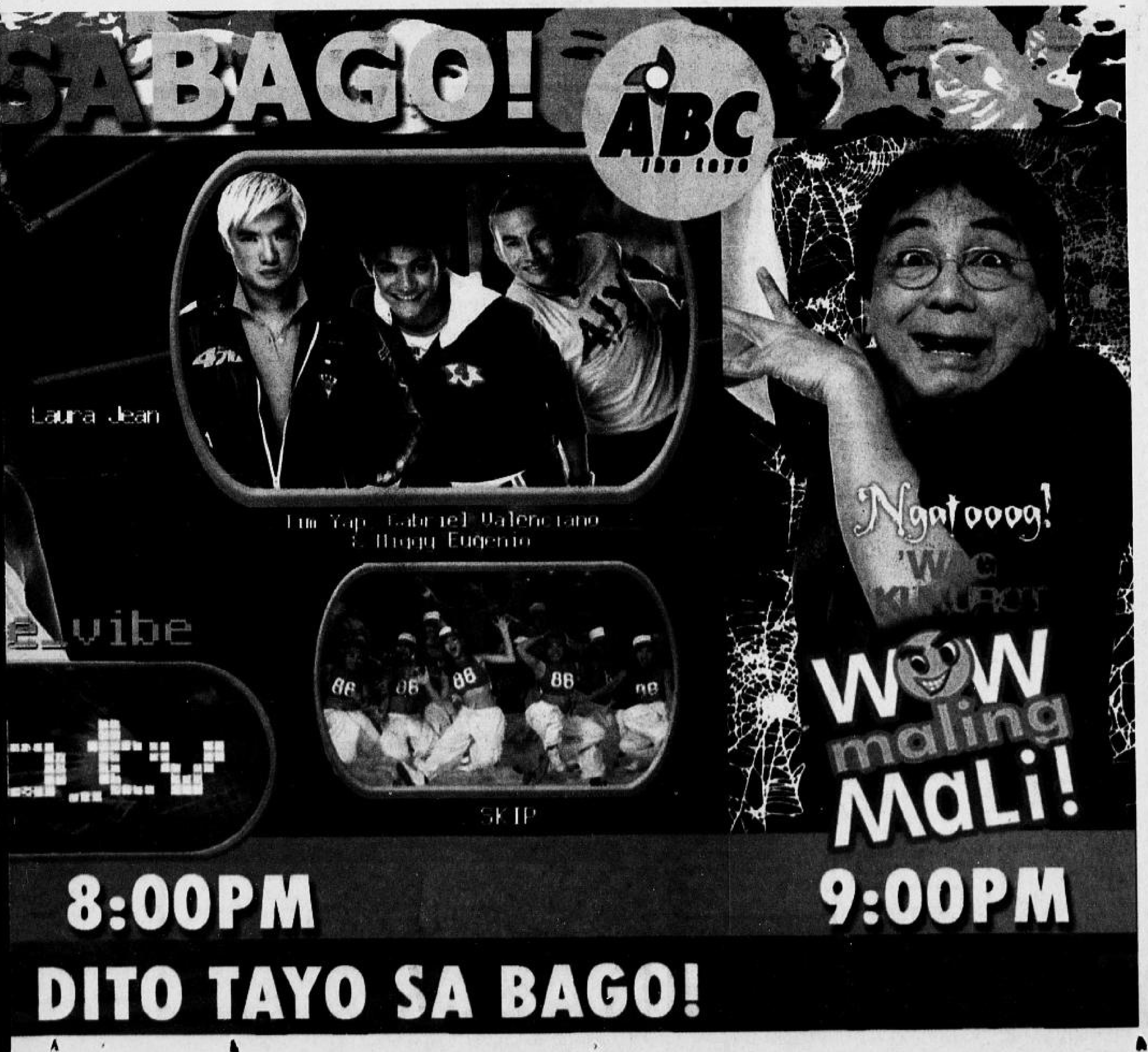
He muses: "There's nothing better than feeling the electricity that you have with an appreciative audience. I hope that Manila will enjoy the repertoire that I prepared for the PICC concert. In singing as in acting, sincerity and quality make for a memorable performance."

Humble beginnings

There's much to learn from Engelbert Humperdinck's humble beginnings. In a recent interview, for instance, he looks back at his career with a straightforward, unsentimental appreciation of his blessings: "When I was an utter flop, I kept having the same dream—that all my teeth were falling out! Well, I don't have that dream anymore."

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

HUMPERDINCK. Three-and-a-half octave vocal range.



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CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

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3 (DOLBY) NASAAN KA MAN R13
4 (DOLBY) MADAGASCAR GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS GP

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3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 GOLD (SDDS) A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) NASAAN KAMAN
8 (DOLBY) MADAGASCAR
9 (DOLBY) SIN CITY
10 (DOLBY) NASAAN KAMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
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3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NASAAN KAMAN
2 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) UNLEASHED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
4 (DTS) HOUSE OF WAX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 NASAAN KA MAN
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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2 BATMAN BEGINS
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4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924
1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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1 BATMAN BEGINS
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1 BATMAN BEGINS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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3 (DTS EX) BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

Cine Nepo
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1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 UNLEASHED
3 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF WAX
4 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 BATMAN BEGINS
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www.clickthecity.com.ph
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2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 (DTS) NASAAN KA MAN
4 GRACIA
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH

Mega Center Mall
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1 MADAGASCAR
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 (DTS) NASAAN KA MAN
4 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS

Fiesta World Mall
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2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 NASAAN KA MAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 NASAAN KA MAN

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ONE GIANT ACTION MOVIE
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THE CITY IS UNDER SIEGE
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BENICIO DEL TORO
BRITTANY MURPHY
JOSH HARNETT
MICKEY ROURKE
FRANK MILLER'S
SIN CITY
DIRECTED BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ FRANK MILLER & QUENTIN TARANTINO

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
ashton kutcher
amanda peet
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THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN A GREAT ROMANCE...TO RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD FRIENDSHIP.
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P120 RESERVED SEATS
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STAR WARS EPISODE 3 12:30 / 3 :30 / 6:30 / 9:30
A LOT LIKE LOVE 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
MADAGASCAR 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
BATMAN BEGINS 11:40 / 12:20 / 1:00 / 2:30 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 5:20 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 8:10 / 8:50 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MR & MRS SMITH 1:00 / 1:40 / 3:40 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
BATMAN BEGINS 1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ NASAAN KA MAN 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❷ BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
❸ MR & MRS SMITH 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
❹ SIN CITY 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10
❺ SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
June 18, Sat. 2005 WORLD SLASHER CUP INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES June 25, Saturday
SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT June 24, Friday, 8pm
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Saturday, 1pm & 3pm

CENTER EVENTS
SALES
50% off from June 15 to September 15 at Speedo on the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
10% off on all wines & spirits until June 25 at Marks & Spencer on the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
PROMOS
FREE notebooks for every P4,000 purchase until June 19 at G. H. Bass on the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
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TERAOKA Building a database of *Pinoys* with Japanese blood.

Japanese roots, Pinoy heart

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

SEVENTY-FOUR-year-old half-Japanese Carlos B. Teraoka, has built a lovely house with a pool in hilly Mangatarem in Pangasinan. In his heyday, he was in the lumber business, so he went into reforestation of the mountains surrounding his farm.

License

With a license to fly, he has a 600-meter airstrip, a Hughes 300 helicopter and a four-seater Cessna plane. Within his farm, he set up a training center where one can learn how to speak Japanese.

He is currently building a database of *Pinoys* with Japanese blood, whom he trains for work in Japan, through a foundation based in Baguio City.

Mr. Teraoka's father was a Japanese migrant laborer, who worked in Baguio for the Americans who built Kennon road. which was then known as Benguet road.

Book

"Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands," a book edited by Patricia Okubo-Afable, was written as a tribute to Japanese migrant workers in the Philippines. It details the vibrant Japanese ex-pat community that was fully engaged in northern Luzon's economic, cultural and civic society in the first decades of the 20th century.

Oral accounts, photographs and drawings present little-known historical facts about Baguio and the Cordilleras.

Mr. Teraoka is Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Baguio.

Diverse

From page A2-5

There's something here for everybody, but fans of alternative music, folk, and adult alternative will be especially pleased.

Spiky-haired Texan Cabrera is first on the list with "True," a teenybopper song from his bright and shiny John Rzeznik-produced debut, "Take It All Away."

This fluffy intro is followed by another light, but not quite bubblegum number, "1,000 Things," courtesy of sleepy-eyed Jason Mraz, and culled from his 2004 live album, "Tonight, Not Again: Jason Mraz Live at the Eagles Ballroom."

Punk band

Other recent releases included are Canadian punk band Simple Plan's "Welcome to My Life;" "The Reason" from pop-punk group Hoobastank; Norwegian soul-pop trio D'Sound's "People are People;" alt metal Story of the Year's "Until the Day I Die," "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" from Australian garage rock revivalists Jet; "Long Night" from famed

DIVERSE/ A2-8

Diverse

From page A2-6

Irish siblings, The Corrs; adult alternative poster-boy Duncan Sheik's "Half-Life;" rising singer-songwriter Ben Jelen's "Come On," and folk singer Kathryn Williams' version of "I Started a Joke."

Airplay

Most of the above-mentioned songs have been enjoying heavy airplay lately, but the stand-out tracks are Edie Brickell and the New Bohemians' "What I Am," Moonpools & Caterpillars' "Ren" and Damien Rice's

DIVERSE/ A2-8

Do The Moves at the Movies
NESCAFE Ice Pick-a-Prize Promo
Purchase a 12 oz. NESCAFÉ ice from the Cinema Snack Bar and get a chance to win exciting prizes!!!
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Competent script. Visually-eloquent cinematography. Evocative design. Uniformly topnotch acting.
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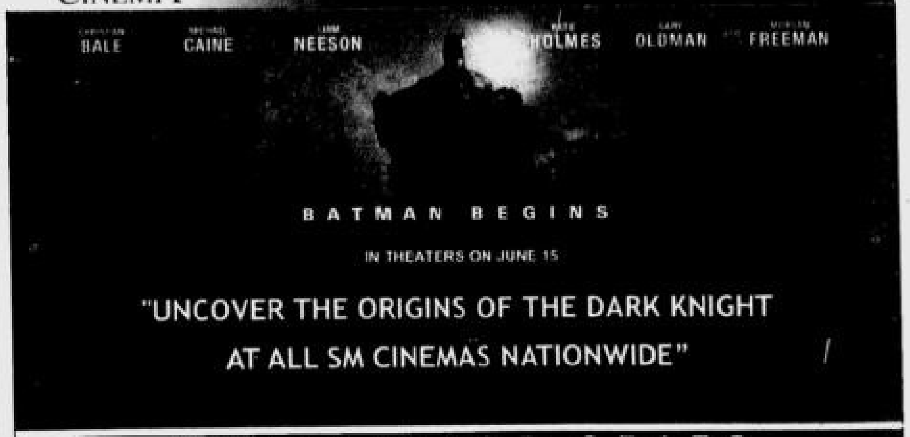
SM CINEMA movietime



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"UNCOVER THE ORIGINS OF THE DARK KNIGHT AT ALL SM CINEMAS NATIONWIDE"

GUARANTEED SEATS
the podium 633-8976
1 BATMAN BEGINS 11:05FS/11:30MF/02:15/05:05/07:45 10:05LFS/10:30LMF/12:50END
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:10FS/11:40MF/02:10/04:40/07:10 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END
megamall 633-1901
BATMAN BEGINS 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:55/04:40/07:25 09:40LFS/10:10LMF/12:30END
sm manila
BATMAN BEGINS 10:15FS/10:25MF/01:05/03:45/06:25 08:55LFS/09:05LMF/11:50END
cebu (032) 231-3875
1 THE BREATHING SHEDS THEATER RENTAL-WHOLE DAY
2 BATMAN BEGINS 10:20FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/06:45 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:20FS/10:30MF/12:50/03:00/05:10 09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

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THIS TIME, THEY ARE IN SEARCH OF A LOAD-RUMBLING NOISE THAT COULD ONLY BE MADE BY HEFFALUMP - A " MUCH-FEARED NEW CREATION" THE WHOLE GANG DEEMED TO BE.
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3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 PREMONITION
12 MADAGASCAR

sm city fairview
1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 PREMONITION
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 SHUTTER
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 STARWARS: EPISODE III
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 A LOT LIKE LOVE
11 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
12 MADAGASCAR

sm north edsa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 NASAAN KA MAN
5 PREMONITION
6 SIN CITY
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city sta mesa
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 NASAAN KA MAN
5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 SIN CITY
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 ARE WE THERE YET?
9 STARWARS: EPISODE III
10 MADAGASCAR

sm city southmall
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
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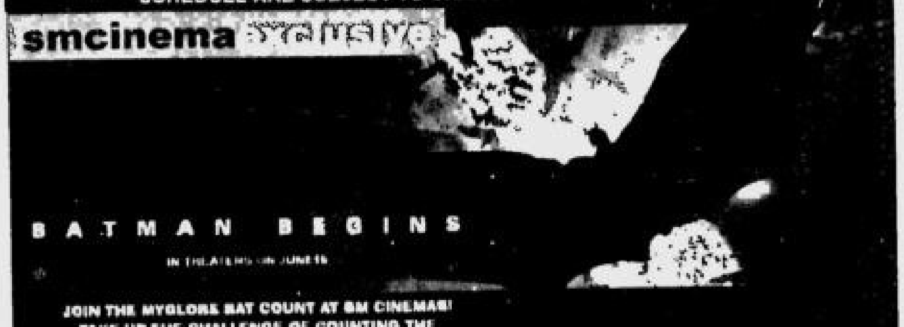

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Cinemalaya unreels at CCP next month

FESTIVAL FINALISTS. (Seated, from left) Pam Miras, Anna Isabelle Matutina, Sigrid Bernardo, Rica Arevalo, Michiko Yamamoto, Coreen Jimenez. (Standing, from left) Herman Claravall, Rommel Tolentino, Byron Bryant, Lawrence Fajardo, Michael Angelo Dagñalan, Jun Aves, Sigfreid Barros-Sanchez, Emmanuel dela Cruz, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Alfred Aloysius Adlawan and Raymond Lee.

By Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, after months on the drawing board and careful selection of official entries, the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition will unreel next month, from July 12 to 17, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

A project of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the CCP and the UP Film Institute, Cinemalaya seeks to provide a showcase for the works of makers of short films, and of first-time feature filmmakers.

Entries

The six short narrative films selected from more than 30 completed entries are "Alimuom" by Rommel Tolentino; "Babae" by Sigrid Andrea Bernardo; "Blood Bank" by Pam Miras; "Kultado" by Lawrence Fajardo; "Mansyon" by Joel Ruiz and "Panaginipan" by Anna Isabelle Matutina.

Competing in the full-length narrative category are "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" by Michiko Yamamoto; "Baryoke" by Byron O. Bryant; "Big Time" by Mario Cornejo and Coreen Jimenez; "Isnatch" by Michael Angelo P. Dagñalan; "ICU Bed No. 7" by Rica Arevalo; "Lasponggols" by Sigfried Barros-Sanchez; "Pepot Artista" By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.; "Room Boy" by Alfred Aloysius Adlawan and "Sarong Banggi" by Emmanuel dela Cruz.

Since we were tapped to judge both the short and full-length categories' selection phase, we can say with some authority that quite a number of the entries are promising. So, we urge you to go out of your way to support the festival with your patronage when it opens next month.

In addition to these competition modules, 10 non-competition films will be exhibited, and there will also be lectures and discussions.

Cinemalaya has been made possible by the support of a number of individuals and organizations interested in helping new filmmakers get an audience for their works.

Helpful

Tonyboy Cojuangco's Philippine Multi-Media Systems has been particularly helpful, with its initial seed investment of P500,000 for each of the full-length entries, which were selected for production from a field of 189 proponents.

The winning entry in the full-length category will be given an additional grant of P200,000 plus the Cinemalaya Trophy during awarding ceremonies on July 17.

We hope that a winner will also be honored in the short film category. And that citations for best screenplay in both categories will also be handed out. We must do everything we can to recognize and boost the best efforts of our new filmmakers.

Long journey

Having said that, we must point out that Cinemalaya is only one step in the long journey to a prosperous future for independent films in this country. Other organizations should weigh in with their own incentives and support systems along these lines.

For their part, our new filmmakers should also be willing to do their share, not just in terms of self-expression and so-called "experimentation," but more importantly, to relate and communicate with the Filipino film audience, who should be the ultimate beneficiaries of all of these innovative endeavors.

Diverse

From page A2-7

"The Blower's Daughter."

"What I Am" became a huge hit when it was first released in 1989, as did "Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars," the debut album that spawned it.

Brickell's second album, "Ghost of a Dog," though competent enough, crashed on the charts, and she went on to other things—namely, marrying Paul Simon and becoming a mother.

Though she rarely makes herself heard nowadays, nobody's ever questioned the singing and songwriting talent that first manifested itself in the idiosyncratic, clear-voiced, and gently humorous "What I Am."

Catchy melody

"Ren" is from Moonpools & Caterpillars' 1995 album, "Lucky Dumpling." A folksy pop-rock number, it's one of the group's best pieces, with its catchy melody, irresistible beat, and sweet, punchy femme vocals.

Singer-songwriter Rice's "The Blower's Daughter" is the hit single from his 2002 debut, "O."

Trivia: It's the song playing in Mike Nichol's "Closer"'s last scene. Simple yet evocative, the song is representative of the Irishman's pared-down yet larger-than-life brand of music-making.

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SATURDAY Speci

Like father, like sons

DOLPHY, (THIRD FROM LEFT) WITH SONS EPI, ERIC AND VANDOLPH. His children have inherited his sense of humor.

By Jocelyn Valle

AS they say, like father, like son. Just ask Dolphy, Ronaldo Valdez, Joey de Leon and Raymond Concepcion, whose kids have followed in their footsteps.

Dolphy shares that everybody in his large brood has inherited his sense of humor. *"Lahat 'yan, kalog!* There's never a dull moment when we're together *dahil magugulo kami. Ako lang ang tahimik sa kanila,"* he maintains.

Some of his kids also found success in show biz, but only Eric, Epi and Vandolph remain active, they co-star with the King of Comedy on "Quizon Avenue."

Career

"Yung nagmamahal sa career, *sila ang magtatagal,"* he points out. *"Kapag inabuso mo, kagaya ng ibang anak ko—mawawala 'yan!* I tell them to be professional all the time. *Maganda 'yung nagtatrabaho ka na walang naiinis sa 'yo."*

When it comes to playing gay roles, which he perfected in movies like "Facifica Falayfay," "Tatay Kong Nanay" and "Jack and Jill," Dolphy finds Epi the most effective, because of his slender build.

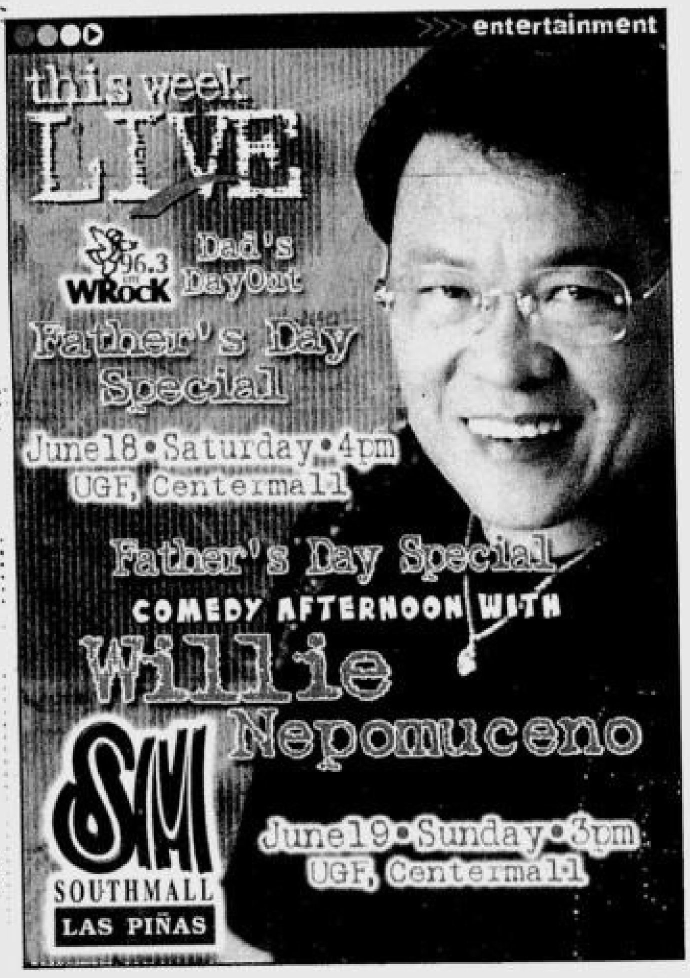
How does he feel when he sees them perform? *"Kinakabahan ako kapag hindi tama ang ginagawa nila,"* he admits. *"Pero, natutuwa ako dahil kasama ko sila sa trabaho—'yan ang malaking* consolation *para sa akin!"*

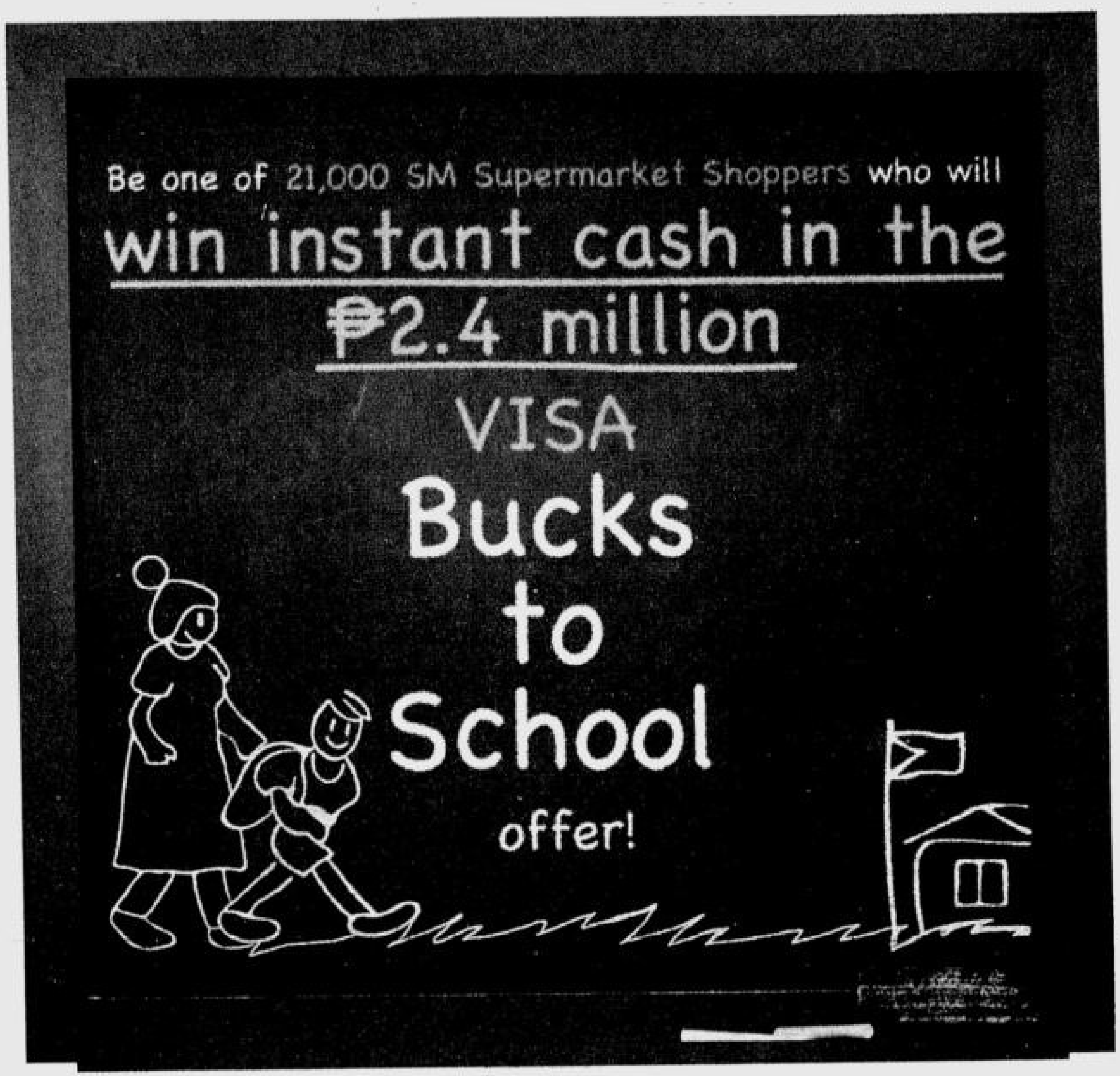
Teen program

Ronaldo Valdez, meanwhile, was caught unaware when son Janno Gibbs first came out on TV in the mid '80s. He was on a location shoot in Batangas when a member of the movie crew told him about it. He looked for a TV set, and true enough, there was his kid singing on German Moreno's teen program, "That's Entertainment."

"I was surprised, because I didn't encourage him to join show business," he recalls. "I thought he was a bit young. *Pero*

LIKE/A3-3





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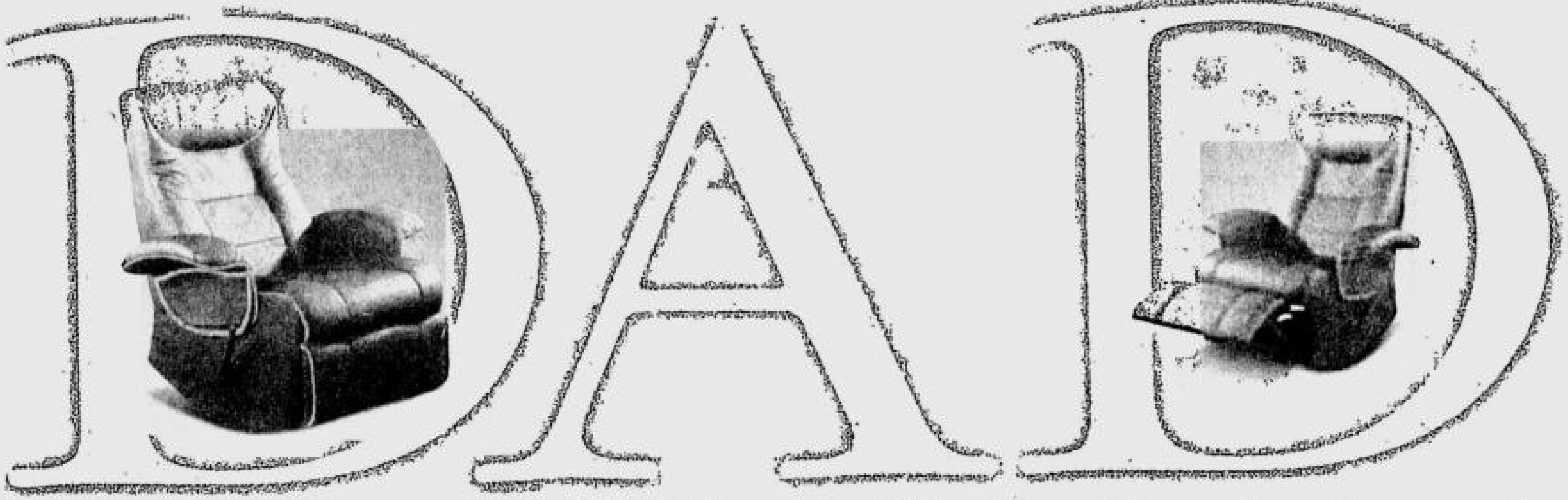

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11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 NASAAN KA MAN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

7 SIN CITY
1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

8 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 MADAGASCAR
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10 SHUTTER
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1 BATMAN BEGINS
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2 PREMONITION
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 SIN CITY
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4 NASAAN KA MAN
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Stirring renditions in 'AI' compilation

By Noelani Torre

IF you don't know who in the world Carrie, Bo, Vonzell, Constantine and Scott are, then it may not be such a good idea to shell out cash for "American Idol Season 4: The Showstoppers."

Sure, everybody in this CD is a competent singer, but in the end, they're all just a bunch of amateurs doing covers—and Simon's not around to keep things interesting.

On the other hand, if you're a fan of "American Idol," then you'll no doubt find this collection an enjoyable listen. "Showstoppers" features songs that the finalists did on the show itself. So, not only do you get to relive your favorite performances (and re-diss the ones you hated), you also get the chance to reassess the talents of the erstwhile hopefuls.

Opening number

Released during the last leg of the competition, the compilers managed to guess rightly as to who would be the winner—thus we have Carrie Underwood doing the opening number, followed by runner-up Bo Bice, and then Vonzell Solomon.

The playlist isn't really arranged with that in mind, however, so you'll find antagonistic farm boy, Scott Savol, filling the 10th slot. Nevertheless, we did notice that the better tracks are mostly all in front, with the not-so-good ones limping behind.

Doubts

If we had any doubts about the winners of this competition, they would have been dispelled even after only one listen. Carrie and Bo clearly stand out from the pack—and as they're the first two tracks, it only means that things go generally downhill from there.

The album is saved from ending with a whimper, however (and that would be Mikalah Gordon's atrocious number), by the closing ensemble piece—the mushy yet smooth "When You Tell Me That You Love Me."

Carrie gives the album a good start with her zesty rendition of Martina McBride's "Independence Day," and Bo holds his own in the rock-tinged Gavin DeGraw hit, "I Don't Want To Be."

Other notable performances are Vonzell Solomon's energetic "Best Of My Love," Jessica Sierra's surprisingly evocative "Total Eclipse of the Heart," and Nadia Turner's "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me."

As for Constantine Maroulis' hammy "My Funny Valentine," it doesn't sound as appealing on disc as it did when he performed it on stage.

Forgettable

The rest of the performances tend to be forgettable. Anwar Robinson's "A House Is Not A Home" lacks emotional impact; Nikko Smith's "Part Time Lover" is good, but pales in comparison to the abovementioned songs; Anthony Fedorov's "Everytime You Go" is unbearably sweet; Scott Savol's "Against All Odds" is bland; and Lindsey Cardinale's "Knock On Wood" sounds slightly off-kilter.

As such, we can't really call all the songs here "showstoppers," but they're all pleasant bits of pop. Not everybody in the album will be a star, but then, that's the whole point of "American Idol," right?

American Idol
SEASON 4
THE SHOWSTOPPERS

"SHOWSTOPPERS." Pleasant bits of pop.

On Air band is ready for the big league

By Jocelyn Valle

EXCEPT for vocalist Vanessa Aldana, members of On Air have all performed with at least two bands.

Guthrie Lopez, 23, started singing professionally six years ago, but he's already teamed up with more than 10 bands. "I love to perform live," he enthuses. "I spent five years singing in a choir. On my first year, the conductor told me that I had such a high voice, he put me in the soprano section. *Nakakahiya kasi puro* girls *doon, 'di ba?"*

Limelight

These days, Guthrie doesn't mind sharing the limelight with On Air's girl vocalists—Vanessa and Jovie Casteltort. He enjoys showing off his falsetto when the band covers Motown tunes.

Unlike Guthrie and the rest of the guys—bassist Paul Ang, guitarist Rico Cabalang, keyboardist Adrian Morales and drummer J5—Vanessa and Jovie had to audition for the band.

"They said the choice of female voices was crucial because On Air plays different musical genres like pop, soul and R&B," Vanessa explains. She made the cut by singing Alicia Keys' love anthem, "If I Ain't Got You."

Great respect

Jovie, on the other hand, sang SWV's "Weak." She shares that she has great respect for African-American singers like Beyoncé and Whitney Houston and for our very own Lani Misalucha.

PROMISING band started singing professionally six years ago.

At 19, Jovie may be the youngest in the group, but she's no greenhorn. "I've joined two bands, choirs and countless singing contests," she smiles. "I'm building my confidence by being in a band. Also, I'm saving up for college."

The rest of the band members are full-time musicians, save for Vanessa. The 22-year-old computer science graduate has a day job as marketing coordinator for Level Up, publisher of the Ragnarok game. "On Air is my first band, so I'm still making adjustments in terms of schedule," she shares.

Calling the shots

"I've always dreamed of becoming a professional singer, but my mother made me choose between my studies and singing," she recalls. "Now, *I'm* calling the shots."

In contrast, Adrian's family has always been supportive of his music. In fact, it was his mom who taught him how to play the keyboards at age 12. He honed his musical chops as part of the band of Church of God's Miracle, where he's an active member. "Sunday is strictly for God. So, if On Air has Sunday gigs, somebody has to sub for me," he states. He is also the group's chief songwriter. Guthrie hopes that their original songs will take them to the big league!

Textured, empathetic performances in 'Mga Pusang Gala'

By Nestor U. Torre

ELLEN Ongkeko-Marfil's digital feature, "Mga Pusang Gala," has a number of good things going for it, not the least of which are the lead performances of Ricky Davao and Irma Adlawan. We daresay that, in next year's film awards derbies, Davao and Adlawan will figure strongly, and could even romp off with a trophy or two—or 10!

That's because the new feature filmmaker's two lead players give their all to the challenging roles they play, stopping at nothing in their committed effort to make the characters they play as rich, textured and empathetic as possible.

Occasional lover

Davao portrays a gay writer of romantic novelettes, whose affections are toyed with by his occasional lover (Lauren Novero), while Adlawan is an advertising agency executive, who pines for a handsome but faithless lothario (Reggie Curley).

The two lead characters live next door to each other, and are so emotionally compatible that their lives and hearts soon intersect. When one of them is down, the other offers much more than just a shoulder to cry on.

But, what happens when both of them are rudely goosed by the fickle finger of fate? They momentarily forget that they are "sisters" and—well, you can guess the rest.

In any case, the plot twist simply adds yet another instructively complicating level to an already deliciously robust brew.

Not so incidentally, the other players in "Mga Pusang Gala" also do very well. Novero is much more than just your usual movie stud. He's beefy, alright, but also has good acting chops and portrays his villain character with welcome restraint.

Young hooligan

Another interesting portrayal is turned in by Archie Galura, as the young hooligan whom Davao "adopts" and treats like a son. Lauren and Archie compete for Davao's attention and affection, and their rivalry has a tragic consequence that enables the movie to achieve a disturbing yet cathartic denouement.

Young Galura's performance is impressive because it is simple, direct and yet so true. Other filmmakers scouting for a young, *masa* protagonist for their future projects need look no further.

But, the biggest thespic surprise in "Mga Pusang Gala" is turned in by Reggie Culey, who plays Adlawan's faithless, feckless lover. Curley has been around for some years, but he really hasn't been given a chance to show what he can do as an actor.

Contradictions

Well, in Ongkeko-Marfil's film, he finally gets that golden opportunity, and he takes full advantage of it. His portrayal of Adlawan's lover is a compelling bundle of contradictions, and it's a tribute to the actor's thespic range and focus that he makes us understand why his character behaves the way he does.

We trust that other producers and directors will rediscover Curley after seeing him in this movie, and give him bigger and better roles from here on in. ("Mga Pusang Gala" will have its regular run in August.)

DAVAO. Portrays a gay writer of romantic novelettes.

ADLAWAN. Her character pines for a handsome but faithless lothario.

Like father, like sons

From page A3-0

desidido talaga. 'Yun pala, nag-apply *kay Kuya* Germs!"

Ronaldo believes that it wasn't a deliberate move on Janno's part to become both a singer and comedian and not a dramatic actor like himself. "What's funny is, in real life, he's the serious type, *at ako ang kalog!,"* he reveals. Ronaldo adds: "I always say that he got his rhythm from his mom, and his soul from me!"

Theater actors Raymond and Sam Concepcion play father and son in the popular Maggi *Sinigang sa Miso* TV commercial. Raymond, who used to be a member of the Met Chorus, initially discouraged Sam from going into acting.

Lesson

"But, I learned my lesson when our first-born chose to be an actor against our wishes," he nods. "Now, he studies theater art in Singapore, and has acted in plays there like 'Saturday Night Fever.' Performing is really in their genes!"

On the other hand, Keempee de Leon is already a father to an eight-year-old girl. But, he's rearing her the same way his own dad, Joey de Leon, brought him up.

VALDEZ AND GIBBS. Role reversal behind the camera.

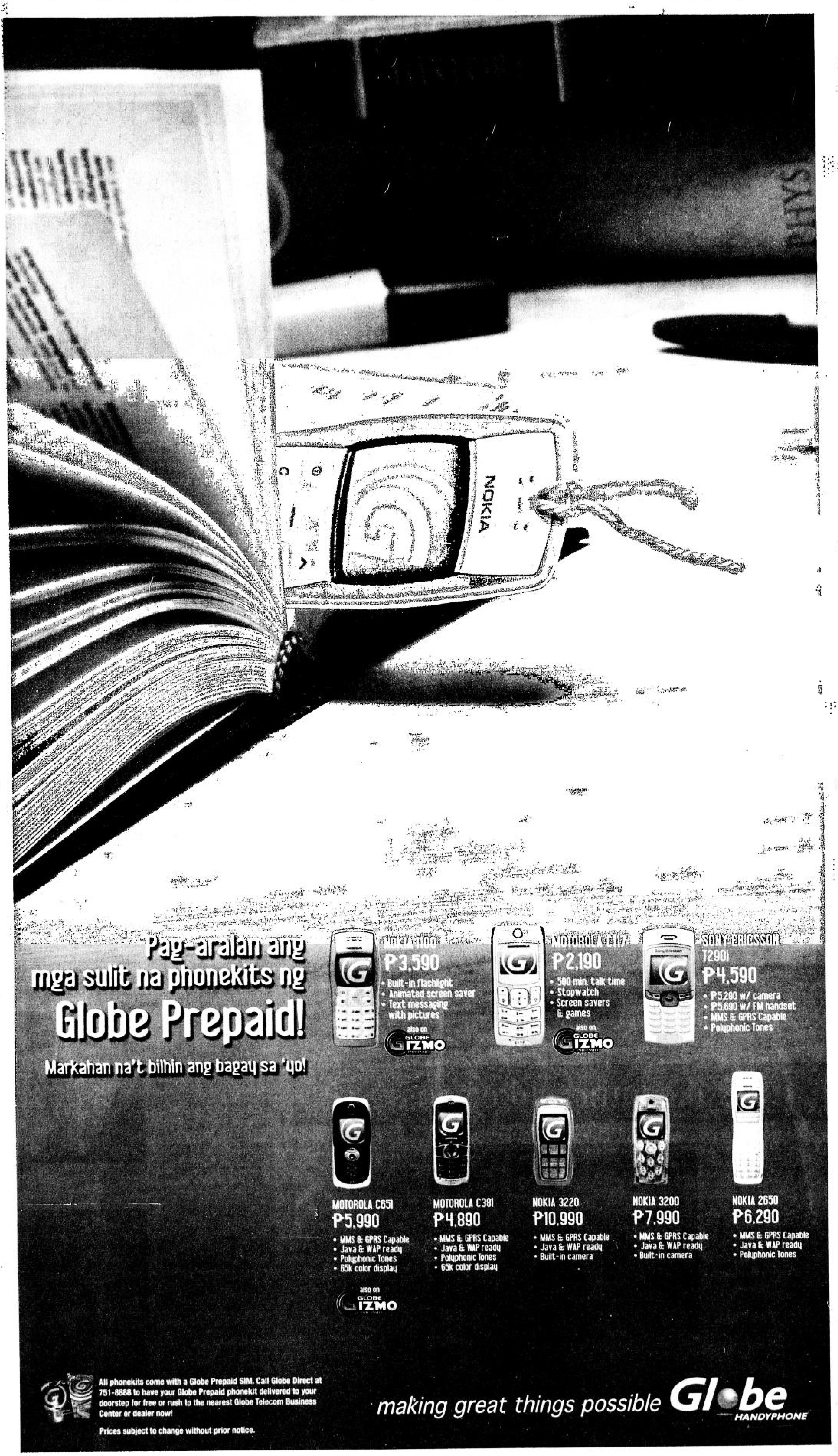
"Sinasabi ko lang sa anak ko kung ano 'yung bawal. Totoo at mapagmahal siya," Joey offers. *"Sa TV, maloko siya.* Off-cam, *serious siya, tahimik."*

Passion

Joey and Keempee share the same passion for work and other artistic pursuits—like music and painting. Keempee appreciates a wide variety of music.

Keempee recalls that the most memorable gift he's given his father is a framed painting. He made it when he was 10, inspired by Joey's sessions with other artists,. who completed one-half of his versions of Jesus Christ. Using watercolor as medium, he painted a half-Christ and asked his dad to do the other half.

He almost forgot about the painting until five years ago, when he found it lying around the house. *"May punit na siya,* but I thought it was the perfect gift for my father," he beams.



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SATURDAY *Special*

Paul McCartney writes children's book

MCCARTNEY. "High in the Clouds" is inspired by an animated film.

SIR Paul McCartney is set to release his first children's book later this year, following a publishing deal with Penguin Books.

The former Beatle, who launches into a huge North American tour in September, has spent the last few years working on the picture book, "High in the Clouds: An Urban Furry Tale."

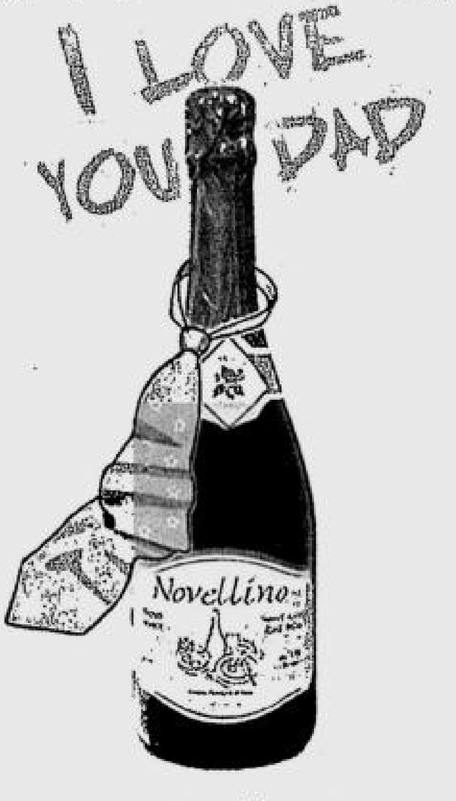
"Having worked on this story and the characters for many years, it's very exciting for me to see things come to fruition in what I think will be a remarkable book," said McCartney.

Project

McCartney collaborated with veteran children's author Philip Ardagh for the project, along with animator Geoff Dunbar.

The story for "High in the Clouds" is inspired by the animated film, "Tropic Island Hum," which McCartney worked on alongside Dunbar.

The book will initially be released across the US on Oct. 4, with a print run of 500,000 copies. "This is going to be a major bestseller for us," said Doug Whiteman, president of Penguin. "I know that a whole new generation of readers will become fans of Paul!"



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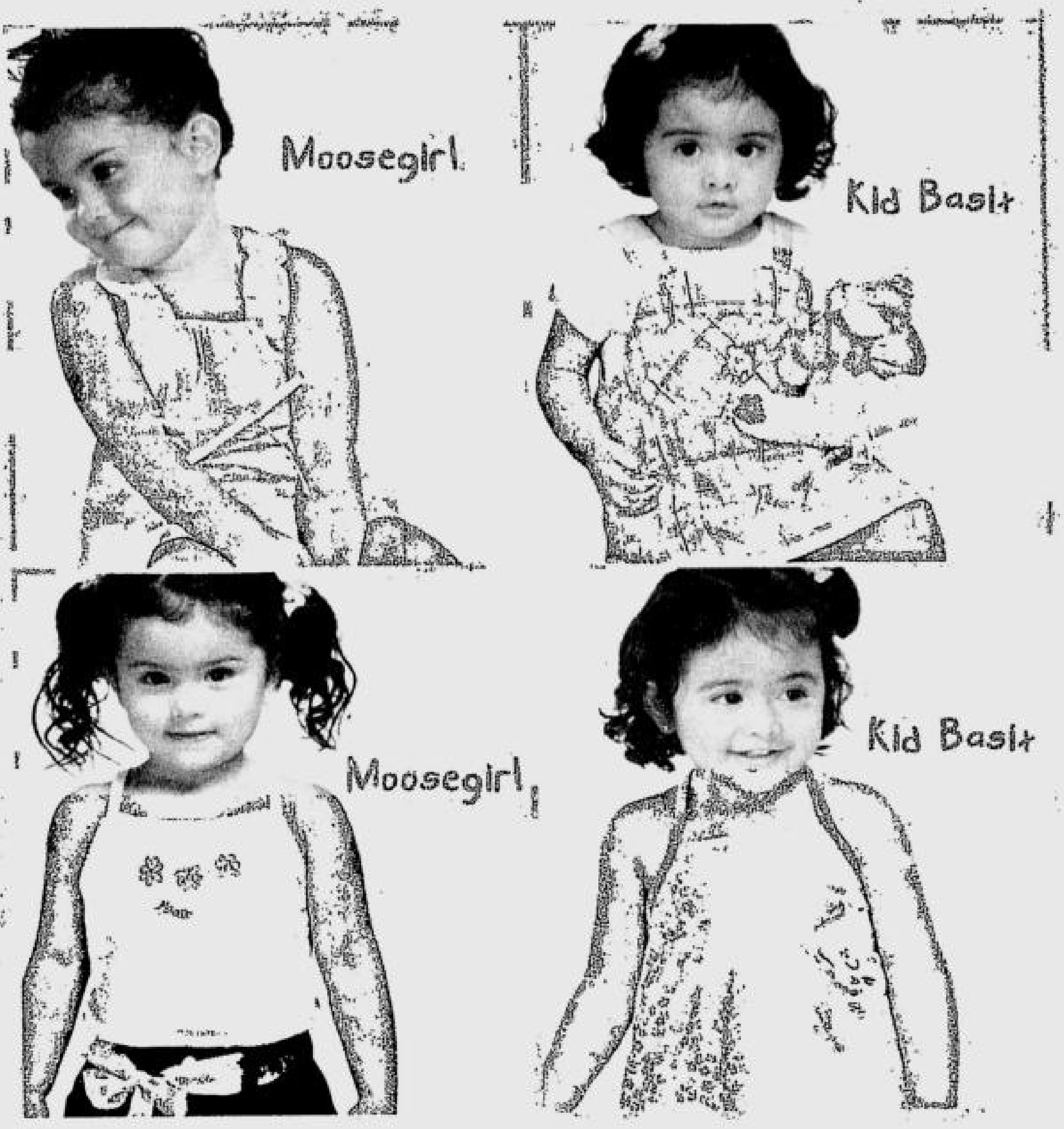

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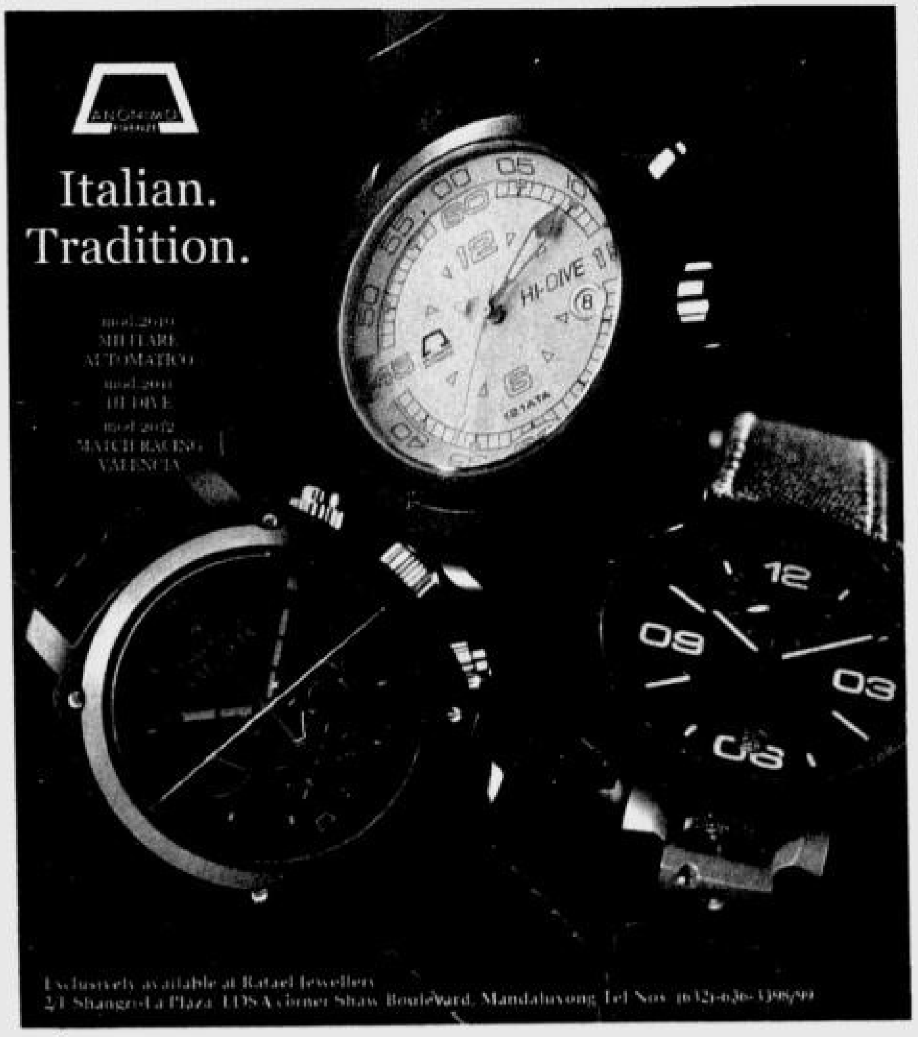

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Mitch rocks the Mandarin's Captain's Bar

MITCH Valdes returns to the concert scene with "Mitch Valdes, A Rockin' Comedy."

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"Mitch Valdes, A Rockin' Comedy" happens on June 24 and 25, and July 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 (Fridays and Saturdays), 9 p.m. Musical direction is by Mel Villena, under the direction of Kokoy Jimenez.

VALDES. Returns to concert scene in "Mitch Valdes, A Rockin' Concert."

MITCH/ A4-3

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8:05, 11:10
GP

3 BATMAN BEGINS
10:20, 1:25, 4:30
7:35, 10:40
GP

4 NASAAN KA MAN
10:35, 1:05, 3:35
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

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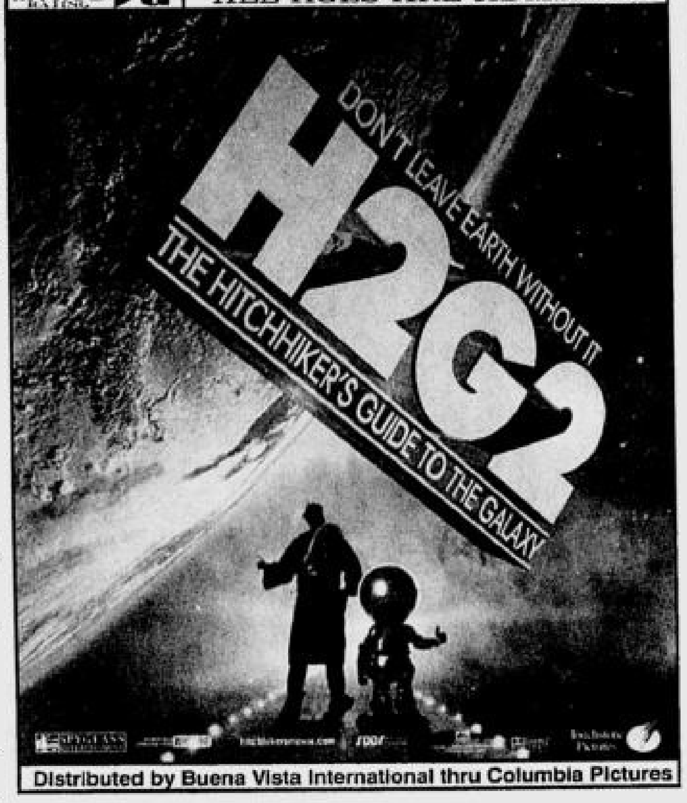
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Mitch rocks the Mandarin's Captain's Bar

From page A4-2

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Nina at Music Museum

Soul siren Nina returns to Music Museum tonight with a repeat performance of "Nina: Just Wanna Have Fun." Nyoy Volante is the musical director of the show, which features dance tunes and Nina's hit songs culled from her album, "Nina Live!" Other performers include Nyoy, Mannos, Karlyn, King, Lemuel dela Cruz and Groove Manila. Call 533-8153.

Kabataan News Network

On June 19, the nation commemorates the birthday of Dr. Jose Rizal, who believed that "the youth is the hope of the nation." Unicef and Probe Media Foundation keep that spirit alive by empowering the youth through the Kabataan News Network, which gives young Filipinos the opportunity to address the issues affecting them. KNN now has 11 bureaus nationwide.

Today, KNN begins its third season (at 10 a.m. on ABC-5) with features on shoe shine boys, Baguio City's Eco-Warriors, and the Kasadyaan Festival. KNN is also telecast on NBN-4 at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

NINA. Repeat performance.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 18 at 2:20 p.m., "Live from Baghdad." 5:30 p.m., "The Mambo Kings." 8:45 p.m., "The Last Samurai." June 19 at 8 p.m., "Top Gun." June 20 at 9 p.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." June 21 at 6 a.m., "The Hollow." June 22 at 2:45 p.m., "Lady Jane." 5:15 p.m., "The First Wives Club."

On Cinemax, June 18 at 11 a.m., "American Crime." June 19 at 6 a.m., "Orange County." June 20 at 7:45 a.m., "The Man Who Knew Too Much." June 21 at 4 p.m., "Dead in the Water." June 22 at 9 p.m., "Empire of the Sun." 1:10 a.m., "The Trouble with Harry."

Gritty remake . . .

From page A4-4

Joven, respectively, who, along with Ito (Diether Ocampo), were adopted and raised by two spinster sisters, the headstrong but emotional Lilia (Gloria Diaz) and the affectionate but hearing-impaired Trining (Hilda Koronel).

But, the unconventionally happy bunch breaks its annoyingly mirthful laughter when Pilar and Joven declare their undying love for each other. That's incestuous!, protest the shaken old maids. However, after some awkward reminders from Trining about a not-so-happy past, Lilia acquiesces.

Unfortunately, it's Ito who doesn't allow the lovers to easily get off the hook. He rationalizes, "*Labag ito sa utos ng Diyos!*" As it turns out, even he wants to play Pepe to the perky Pilar—then, he goes psycho! And things go on a downward spiral thereafter, before the dramatic thriller draws to a "Ghost"-like conclusion.

The movie has an interesting premise, whose promise the visually savvy director unfortunately fails to fully realize. Laurel has a knack for establishing dread, and we'd like to see his visual sense and cinematic potential honed in future film projects.

But, vision is not enough to keep a film consistently engaging. The production is dragged down by archaic lines ("*Kailan n'yo balak sabihin ang maitim ninyong balak?*"), convoluted plot twists that leave you wanting more exposition, and the sharp psychological droop of Ocampo's loony character.

It's the performances that buoy up the film—most notably the one turned in by Jericho Rosales, who can make awkward scenes work with his natural facility for delivering multi-layered performances. Indeed, Rosales is one of his generation's finest actors.

Unfortunately, good performances don't a good movie make. The story's descent into horror and paranoia feels hollow because the plot doesn't hold up logically, and leaves its viewers in the clutches of a conundrum.

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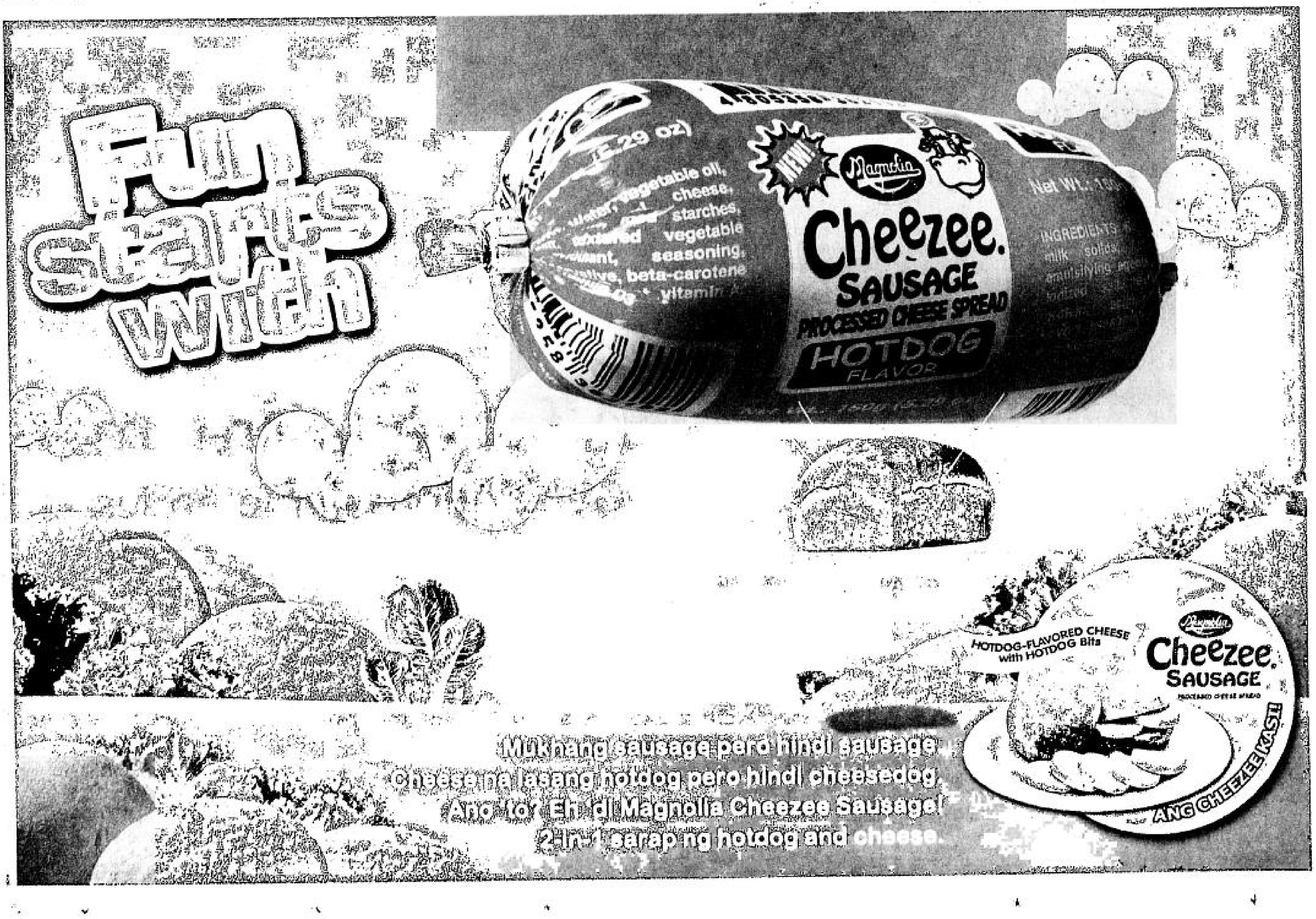

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BALE. Dons the Dark Knight's cape in Christopher Nolan's action thriller.

NOW SHOWING

Gritty remake resurrects Batman mythology

By Rito P. Asilo

"Batman Begins"

D: Christopher Nolan
S: Christian Bale, Katie Holmes

CHRISTOPHER Nolan ("Following," "Memento") puts the Dark Knight's tale in engaging psychological perspective—and revs the superhero franchise back to life!

Aided by Christian Bale's serious cult-flick credentials, and an impressive supporting cast that includes Michael Caine (touching as Wayne manor's loyal butler, Alfred Pennyworth), Gary Oldman (Jim Gordon), Liam Neeson (Henri Ducard), Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox), Ken Watanabe (Ra's al Ghul), Cillian Murphy (Dr. Jonathan Crane/ The Scarecrow) and Katie Holmes (Rachel Dawes), the film clarifies the motivations of Bruce Wayne (Bale), who was orphaned at age eight after the senseless death of his parents at the hand of a common thug.

Tormented by guilt and mourning, the orphaned heir travels the world to understand the dynamics of the criminal mind, and turns himself into a superhuman force out to thwart crime and injustice.

Nolan makes Wayne's transformation understandable and accessible—from the scared, guilt-stricken boy to the masked, crime-busting vigilante he becomes—by wisely tweaking the caped crusader's mythology and making sense of the gaps in his tormented life, tackled only in passing in previous installments.

"Batman Begins" may be less than showy for a superhero flick, and you can't help but compare Nolan's bold but sweepingly grim vision to Tim Burton's edgy and darkly humorous theatrical touch, but the film—based on the character who first appeared in DC comics in 1939—shakes us out of moral stupor through the stark images Nolan tersely paints on his cinematic canvas, and the lessons learned from the Dark Knight's tale:

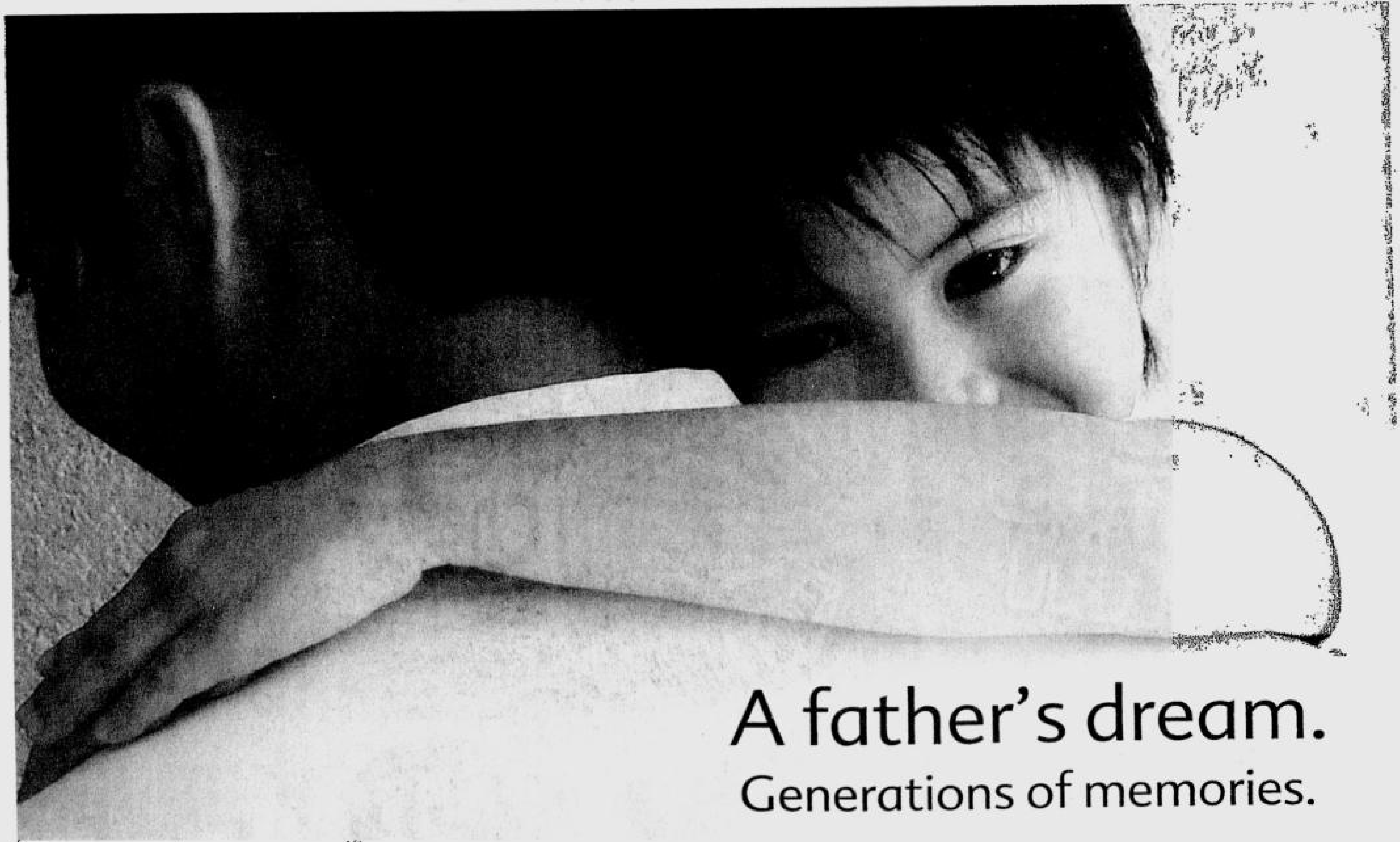
When a man's anger outweighs his guilt, it's easy to equate justice with vengeance. Alfred himself has nuggets of wisdom to share: "Why do we fall? So that we can learn to pick ourselves up!" When childhood sweetheart Rachel starts to doubt his motives, Bruce succinctly reminds her: "It's not who you are underneath, it's what you do that defines you."

"Nasaan Ka Man"

D: Cholo H. Laurel
S: Claudine Barretto, Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo

"Hihintayin Kita sa Langit" meets "The Sixth Sense" in Claudine Barretto's first big-screen collaboration with Jericho Rosales. The young actors play Pilar and

GRITTY/ A4-3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Events and Activities

Army and Navy band concerts, video presentations, exhibits and demonstrations. From June 17 to 19, 2005, at the Farmers Plaza, Ali Mall and the Coliseum parking area.

Araneta Center

Father's Day. Another tradition that happily lives on here.

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BUSINESS

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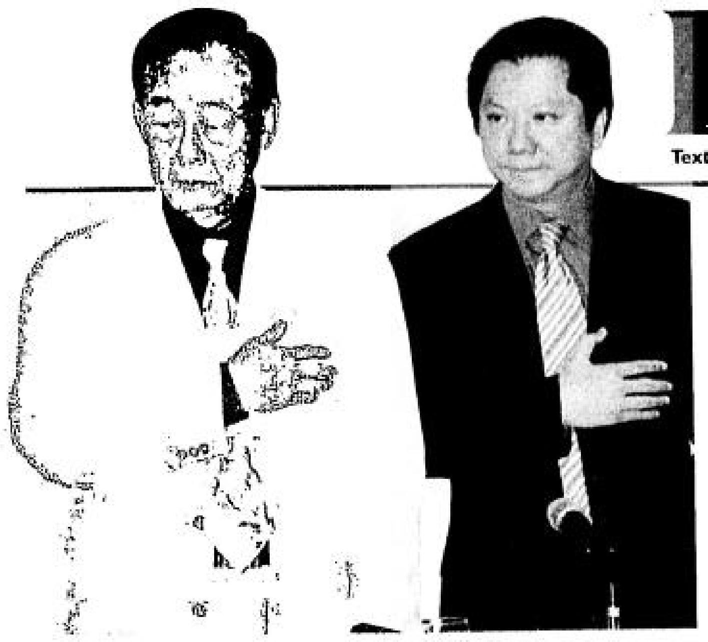


MEGAWORLD SHAREHOLDERS' MEET
Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew Tan (right) and director George Yang stand in attention as the national anthem is played at the start of the property firm's annual stockholders' meeting Friday in Eastwood City. *(See story on page B3.)*

Cut in oil tariffs readied

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expects the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) to approve within the month the reduction to 3 percent of the current 5-percent tariff on crude and refined petroleum product imports, in time to mitigate the impact of the expanded value-added tax law on fuel prices.

In a briefing yesterday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the proposed tariff cut went unopposed during hearings at the Tariff Commission, boosting its chances of being approved soon.

"We are positive that the (TRM) will favorably endorse the reduction of import duties to the President, so that an executive order can be issued. This is part of the mitigating measures that have been planned for petroleum products," he said.

Under the proposal, tariff duties on crude and refined petroleum products will be reduced to 3 percent from the current 5 percent, except that on liquefied petroleum gas, which will be slashed from 3 percent to zero.

This measure is part of the government's efforts to offset the impact of the VAT law, which will take effect July 1, on fuel prices.

"The reduction in import duty will significantly lessen the impact of the VAT on fuel prices without necessarily diminishing the government's ability to raise revenues," Lotilla said.

The proposed reduction in import duties would actually only bring the industry back to pre-2005 tariff levels, before EO 336 took effect and raised the tariff on crude and refined petroleum products from 3 percent to 5 percent.

The EO was passed as an interim revenue measure to boost the government's tax collections from the oil industry while Congress was deliberating on proposed new taxes for petroleum products.

"With the VAT already passed, we believe the import duty can now be adjusted to the original level. More importantly, the reduction in import duty combined with the removal of excise taxes on socially sensitive fuel products

CUT/ B2

Economic roadshow seen in July

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES plans to revive its delayed global roadshow in July to capture investor interest ahead of a forthcoming seasonal summer lull, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said yesterday.

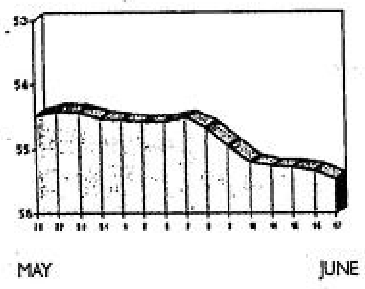
Purisima said he believed July would be a better time to reset the country's annual roadshow, originally scheduled by the end of this month but was deferred to avoid a busy bond market in Europe and the United States.

In a separate interview, Malacañang's adviser for investor relations and spokesperson on economic affairs Cora Guidote said: "July is a good time because after that, investors start to go on summer vacations, especially

ECONOMIC/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.475 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2005

¥ 108.86 = $ 1

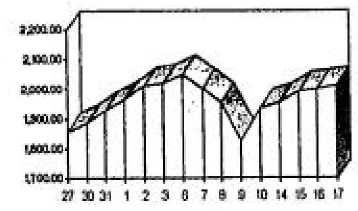
As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2005

GOLD: $426.40-426.90

per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.58% higher

SHARE prices closed 0.58 percent higher yesterday, extending gains through the key 2,000 points level as investors followed through on the blue chips, dealers said.

The country's improving fiscal and economic outlook has continued to boost investor sentiment despite persistent political concerns centered on allegations of corruption and vote rigging against President Gloria Arroyo and her family.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 11.57 points to 2,011.17 after trading between 1,999.60 and 2,020.80. Volume was 899 million shares worth P1.07 billion.

Gainers beat losers 43 to 22, while 46 stocks ended unchanged. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP tech trade leads global trend /B2
Megaworld raises capital to P20B /B3

A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

RP tech trade leads global trend

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SANTOS

THE GROWTH in exports of semiconductor goods provides a good sign for the country's overall trade performance this year, as the sector outperformed the global industry in April, according to Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos.

Based on industry figures, semiconductor exports in April grew 17.9 percent to $1.54 billion from $1.31 billion in the same month last year.

On the other hand, figures from the United-States based Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) showed that year-on-year global sales of semiconductors were up 6.9 percent from $17 billion in April 2004.

"This is certainly a good sign for our exporters (since) semiconductor devices, together with other electronic products, are the main drivers of our exports," Santos said. "(The sector) accounts for about 65 percent of our total exports."

The National Statistics Office recently reported that merchandise exports in April rose 8.8 percent year-on-year to $3.23 billion.

According to the NSO, shipments of electronics grew 6.3 percent.

From January to April, merchandise exports were up 4.8 percent year-on-year to $12.75 billion, with electronics exports accounting for $2.09 billion.

Key drivers of worldwide semiconductor sales growth in April include the increase in demand for cellular phones, personal computers, digital televisions, and digital cameras.

This year, the sale of cell phones is expected to grow by 13 percent, while sale of personal computers will grow by 10 percent.

The sale of digital television units is expected to grow by 65 percent, while sale of digital cameras may go up 15 percent.

According to the trade department, the SIA expressed bullishness on global sales of electronic products, growing by 6 percent this year, and then to an annual compounded growth rate of 9.8 percent through 2008.

Also, Santos said other exports such as wiring harness, transportation equipment, and coconut oil likewise showed improvements in the April 2005 export figures.

Japan remained the country's top export market with 18.59 percent share of the Philippines' total exports.

The US came in second with 16.43 percent, then The Netherlands with 10.40 percent, and China with 9.16 percent.

Exports to all top four markets grew, with China showing the fastest growth of 109.36 percent.

Exports to Japan rose by 15.95 percent, the Netherlands by 16.63 percent, and the US by 9.73 percent.

DOE offers 18 sites for wind power dev't

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING today's inauguration of the largest wind farm in Southeast Asia, the Department of Energy will be offering 18 more wind power sites for development during the Second Wind Power Contracting Round scheduled within the year.

According to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, ten of the sites are in Luzon, seven in the Visayas, and one in Mindanao.

Earlier this year, the DOE offered 16 wind power sites for development during the First Philippine Wind Power Contracting Round.

Three companies were given pre-commercial contracts (PCCs) to develop five sites in Luzon and the Visayas.

Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems Inc. got three PCCs for wind projects in Marinduque, Baleno in Masbate and Tablas in Romblon, having a combined capacity of 30 megawatts (MW).

Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp. was awarded a contract for a 30-MW project in Sual, Pangasinan, while San Carlos Wind Power Corp. was given the right to develop a 25-MW facility in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

The three firms are now conducting actual wind assessment in their respective areas.

Lotilla said the other firms that bid for the 11 other sites were now in the process of securing their PCCs.

Today marks the inauguration of the 24.75-MW Northwind Power Development Corp. wind power project in Bangui Bay, Ilocos Norte.

The wind farm, the first in the country and the biggest in Southeast Asia, will harness strong winds coming from the sea using 15 towers with an installed capacity of 1.65 MW each.

"This project shows the government's persistence at tapping indigenous and renewable energy sources," Lotilla said. "We need ... to harness our own energy sources and not be forever held hostage by volatile international oil prices."

He added that, as an archipelago, the country has a lot of wind potential, as proven by various wind power studies conducted by different agencies.

To encourage investments in wind power, Lotilla said several financing institutions have put up assistance windows, such as the Wind Energy Financing Program of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and the Global Environment Facility of the United Nations' Development Program.

Banks told to report crime, losses right away

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas wants banks to immediately report crimes and losses involving bank personnel, as part of its continuing campaign to weed out incompetent bankers.

Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP officer-in-charge, recently issued circular 486, requiring banks to report crimes and losses within five banking days upon discovery.

Previously, the deadline on the reporting of crime and losses was five banking days after the initiation of judicial action or extra-judicial action, or after the imposition of administrative sanction, whichever came first.

The new circular meant that the BSP would like to be better appraised of situations that could potentially lead to disaster so that the bank regulator could act accordingly.

In other countries, people can be disqualified from holding position in a bank on mere suspicion of incompetence or wrongdoing.

The BSP has adopted a "fit and proper" framework for bank officers and directors that is as stringent as that of the Bank of England. But the BSP admits to being less effective because the local judicial system could easily overturn the policy-making Monetary Board.

This principle of "fit and proper" rule in banking is provided in both the General Banking Act of 1949, as well as in the General Banking Law of 2000. The law mandates the BSP to rule on the qualifications and disqualifications of individuals elected or appointed bank directors or officers.

The law also allows the BSP to bar anyone found unfit to hold a bank director's or officer's position, and to put in place a screening process that will ensure that an individual is fit and proper to hold a position of responsibility.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 17, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	1,928,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	51.5	52	1,138,900
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,440,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	51	51.5	51	51.5	528,100
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	39,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	31.5	827,500
Prudential Bank	350	400	350	400	1,660
Philippine National Bank	42	42.5	41.5	41.5	480,100
Security Bank Corp.	27	27.5	27	27	45,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	232	262.5	232	262.5	60
Manulife Financial Corp.	2610	2625	2610	2625	1,880
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1760	1770	1760	1770	2,910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	7,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	872,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2	2	2	2	17,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	835	820	825	79,040
Ipeople Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.7	58,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	4,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.25	994,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1600	1645	1600	1605	75,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.66	1,450,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	19,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.5	23.5	455,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	11,702,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	2,528,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	93,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	454,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Concrete Aggregates A	6	6	6	6	1,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.59	1,200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	157,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	31	31	439,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	58,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	45,000
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92.5	91.5	92.5	101,500
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	58,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	355	365	355	360	58,420
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	240,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5.1	4.9	5.1	856,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	23,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	86,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	13,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	16,881,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	370,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	1,790,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	2,360,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	5,017,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.4	1,696,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	49.5	49	49	275,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,300,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	150,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4	4.2	4	4.15	3,401,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.86	132,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.44	3,845,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	17,220,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	565,190
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	14,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,610,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	800,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	2,259,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	760,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	1,107,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.5	11.5	11	11	1,428,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	2,966,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	2,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,248,000
Highlands Prime, Inc.	2.22	2.28	2.18	2.28	80,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	55,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	9,570,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	149,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	716,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	40,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	16,690,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	20,890,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	213,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	192,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	1,060,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	6,972,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	331,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	440,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	54,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	155,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	3,320,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	780,000

DISCLOSURES

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. signed on June 16 a 20-year container terminal operating concession for the Port of Toamasina, Madagascar. Toamasina is the country's main port, which handles over 90 percent of Madagascar's container traffic.

* * *

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 22, 2 p.m., at Panciteria San Jacinto, 106 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Ugong, Pasig City.

* * *

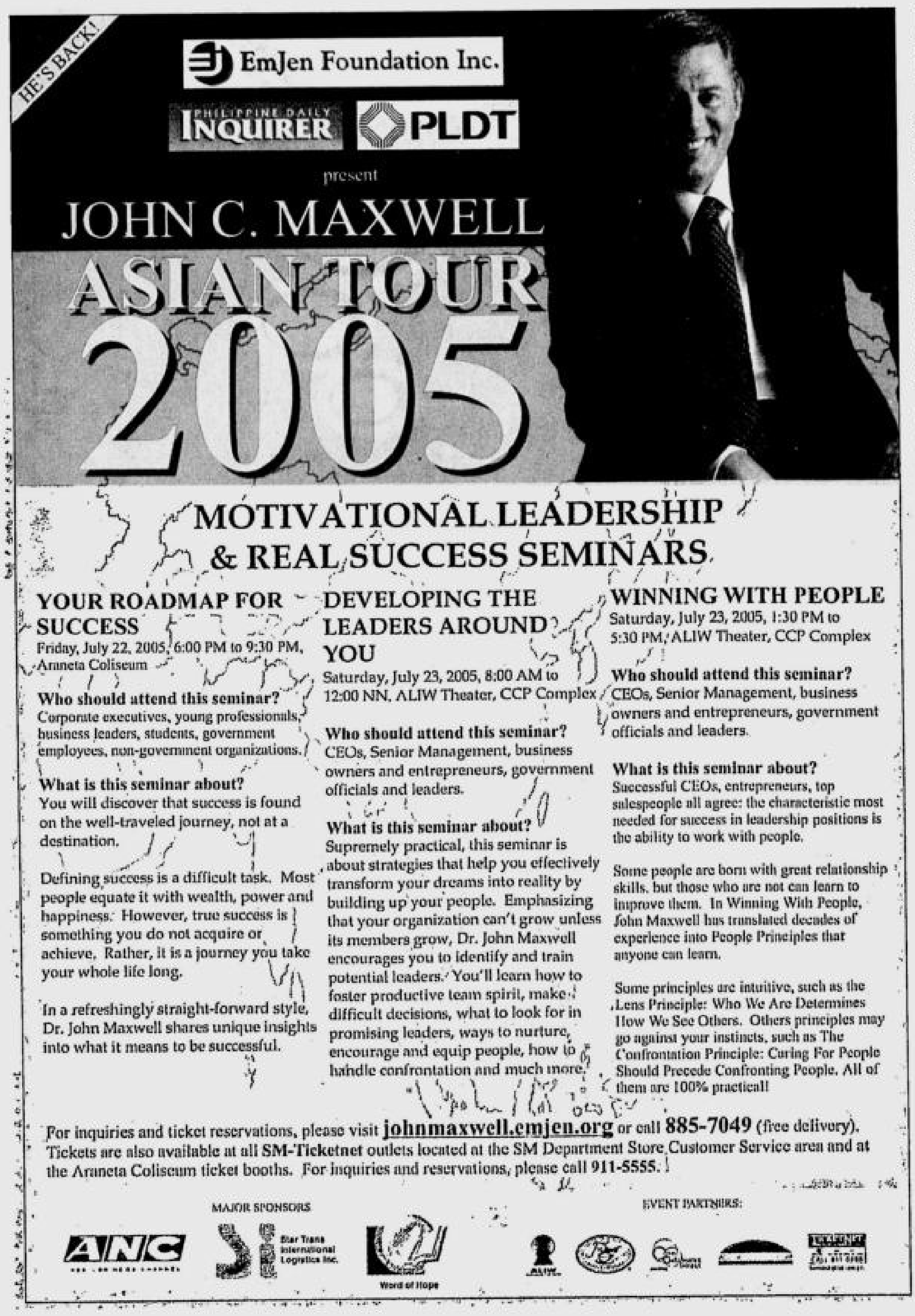
THE **SEC** announced that the trading suspension on Abacus Consolidated Resources and Holdings Inc.'s shares would be lifted on June 20.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. president D. Alfred Cabangon bought an additional 20,000 CSB shares at P17.25 per share, for a total of P345,000, increasing his total shareholdings to 5,020,000 shares.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. elected Andrew Tan as chair and George Yang as vice chair, and re-elected Katherine Tan, Thomas Barrack Jr., Cirilo Manlangit, Gerardo Garcia and Roberto Guevara as directors. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***



HE'S BACK!

EmJen Foundation Inc.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER · PLDT

present

JOHN C. MAXWELL

ASIAN TOUR 2005

MOTIVATIONAL LEADERSHIP & REAL SUCCESS SEMINARS

YOUR ROADMAP FOR SUCCESS
Friday, July 22, 2005, 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM, Araneta Coliseum

Who should attend this seminar?
Corporate executives, young professionals, business leaders, students, government employees, non-government organizations.

What is this seminar about?
You will discover that success is found on the well-traveled journey, not at a destination.

Defining success is a difficult task. Most people equate it with wealth, power and happiness. However, true success is something you do not acquire or achieve. Rather, it is a journey you take your whole life long.

In a refreshingly straight-forward style, Dr. John Maxwell shares unique insights into what it means to be successful.

DEVELOPING THE LEADERS AROUND YOU
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
CEOs, Senior Management, business owners and entrepreneurs, government officials and leaders.

What is this seminar about?
Supremely practical, this seminar is about strategies that help you effectively transform your dreams into reality by building up your people. Emphasizing that your organization can't grow unless its members grow, Dr. John Maxwell encourages you to identify and train potential leaders. You'll learn how to foster productive team spirit, make difficult decisions, what to look for in promising leaders, ways to nurture, encourage and equip people, how to handle confrontation and much more.

WINNING WITH PEOPLE
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
CEOs, Senior Management, business owners and entrepreneurs, government officials and leaders.

What is this seminar about?
Successful CEOs, entrepreneurs, top salespeople all agree: the characteristic most needed for success in leadership positions is the ability to work with people.

Some people are born with great relationship skills, but those who are not can learn to improve them. In Winning With People, John Maxwell has translated decades of experience into People Principles that anyone can learn.

Some principles are intuitive, such as the Lens Principle: Who We Are Determines How We See Others. Others principles may go against your instincts, such as The Confrontation Principle: Caring For People Should Precede Confronting People. All of them are 100% practical!

For inquiries and ticket reservations, please visit johnmaxwell.emjen.org or call 885-7049 (free delivery). Tickets are also available at all SM-Ticketnet outlets located at the SM Department Store Customer Service area and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booths. For inquiries and reservations, please call 911-5555.

MAJOR SPONSORS: ANC · Star Trans International Logistics Inc. · Word of Hope

EVENT PARTNERS:

Economic

From page B1

those from Europe."

"At least the Philippine team would like to meet up with them before they go on vacation," she said.

This month, issuers are scrambling to tap the European market before the European Union starts the implementation of more stringent disclosure guidelines for issuers.

It is widely believed that the Philippine roadshow was also sidetracked by the political tension triggered by a barrage of attacks against the Arroyo family, including accusations that the President had cheated in last year's presidential elections and that her husband, eldest son and brother-in-law were involved in illegal gambling payoffs.

Waving the banner of progress from recent fiscal consolidation, the Philippine economic team was originally set to meet with investors from Frankfurt, Geneva, Zurich, Boston and New York.

UBS AG was tapped to be the lead coordinator for the European leg along with ABN Amro Bank and Deutsche Bank AG, while the U.S. leg would be handled by Citigroup Inc. and Goldman Sachs.

The Philippine government still needs to raise around $850 million from the international markets for the rest of the year.

CURRENCIES

June 17, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825900	1.000000	55.2950
Japan	Yen	0.007583	0.009182	0.5077
United Kingdom	Pound	1.505203	1.822500	100.7751
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106226	0.128619	7.1120
Switzerland	Franc	0.649139	0.785978	43.4607
Canada	Dollar	0.668420	0.809323	44.7515
Singapore	Dollar	0.493193	0.597158	33.0199
Australia	Dollar	0.637909	0.772380	42.7088
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.190775	2.652590	146.6750
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220240	0.266667	14.7454
Brunei	Dollar	0.491724	0.595380	32.9215
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020178	0.024432	1.3510
UAE	Dirham	0.224875	0.272279	15.0557
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210800	66.9512
Argentina	Peso	0.287520	0.348129	19.2498
Brazil	Real	0.342342	0.414508	22.9202
Denmark	Kroner	0.134349	0.162670	8.9948
India	Rupee	0.018973	0.022973	1.2703
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217371	0.263193	14.5533
Mexico	New Peso	0.076568	0.092708	5.1263
New Zealand	Dollar	0.590350	0.714796	39.5246
South Africa	Rand	0.123245	0.149225	8.2514
Korea	Won	0.000814	0.000986	0.0545
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026307	0.031852	1.7613

Cut in oil tariffs . . .

From page B1

will provide some breather for our consumers," Lotilla said.

Apart from the proposed import duty reduction, the VAT law also scrapped excise taxes on diesel, kerosene and fuel oil.

At present, diesel is slapped an excise tax of P1.63 a liter; kerosene, 60 centavos a liter, and fuel oil, 30 centavos a liter.

The excise tax on gasoline was likewise reduced by 45 centavos a liter to P4.35 a liter, while cooking gas would continue to enjoy its zero-excise-tax status.

Megaworld raises capital to ₱20B

By Clarissa S. Batino

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. yesterday said it would likely grow profits to nearly a billion pesos this year on the back of an improving take-up in rentals and sustained increase in call center locators, its top official said.

The company received the go-ahead of shareholders during yesterday's annual meeting to increase its authorized capital stock to P20.2 billion from P13.2 billion.

Part of the increase will cover 1.77 billion shares to be issued as stock dividends.

Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan projected that Megaworld would boost its revenue by 30 percent this year from P4.21 billion a year ago. He said earnings should increase by 20 percent from P760 million in 2004.

The company registered profits of P310 million in the first quarter, up 28 percent fromt P242.5 million a year ago.

"We are on track with our targets. We are banking on the continued growth of our residential and BPO offices," Tan told reporters after the shareholders' meeting.

Megaworld would cement its leadership in the upscale property development with the launching of two new projects in the coming months.

These are the Forbeswood Parklane and Newport City. Forbeswood is the ninth luxury residential tower to rise in Megaworld's five-hectare development overlooking Manila Golf in Bonifacio Global City.

Newport City is a 25-hectare satellite city featuring medium rise residences, a five-star hotel, a retail and leisure complex and business and technology park at the Villamor Air Base near Magallanes.

Megaworld is projecting to raise P10 billion in sales from Newport City in 8 to 10 years. This project, he said, would be a key revenue driver for the company.

Empire East, the company's unit developing medium-scale residences, is focusing on the Laguna area, according to Tan.

Megaworld is spending P4.7 billion for projects this year. Tan said the amount would be largely financed with internal funds.

"We are launching two more projects within the year to meet a growing demand from the market. And we have scheduled more than a dozen office and residential projects for completion over the next four years," he said.

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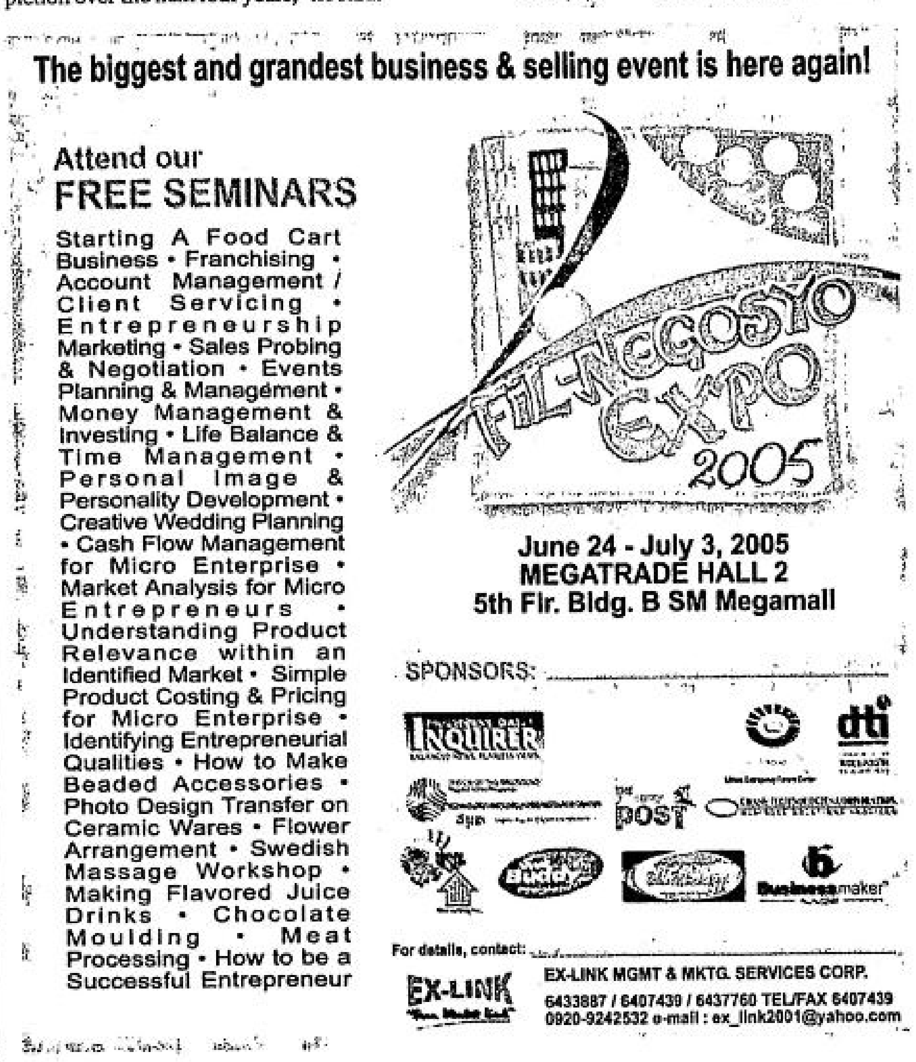
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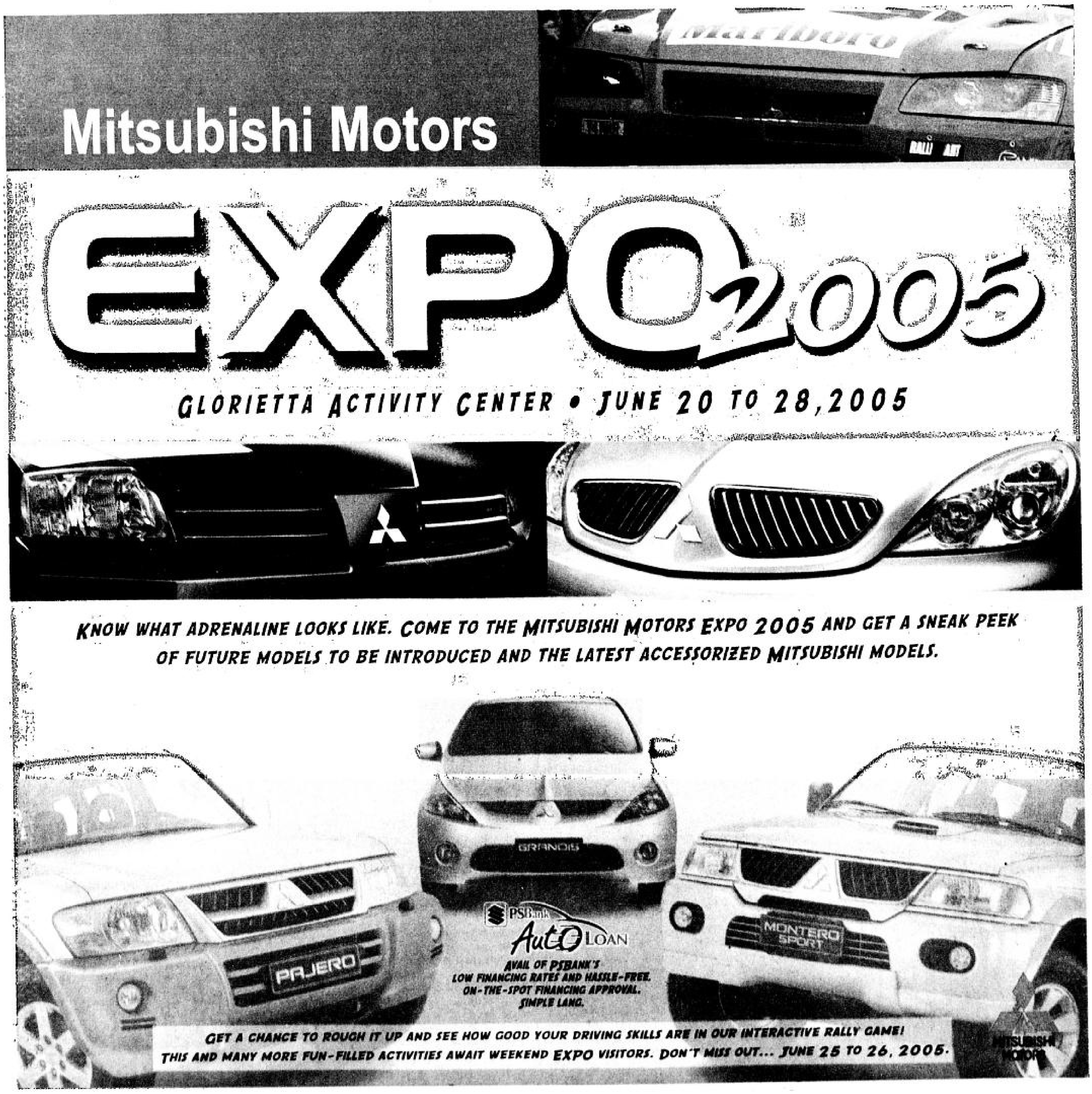
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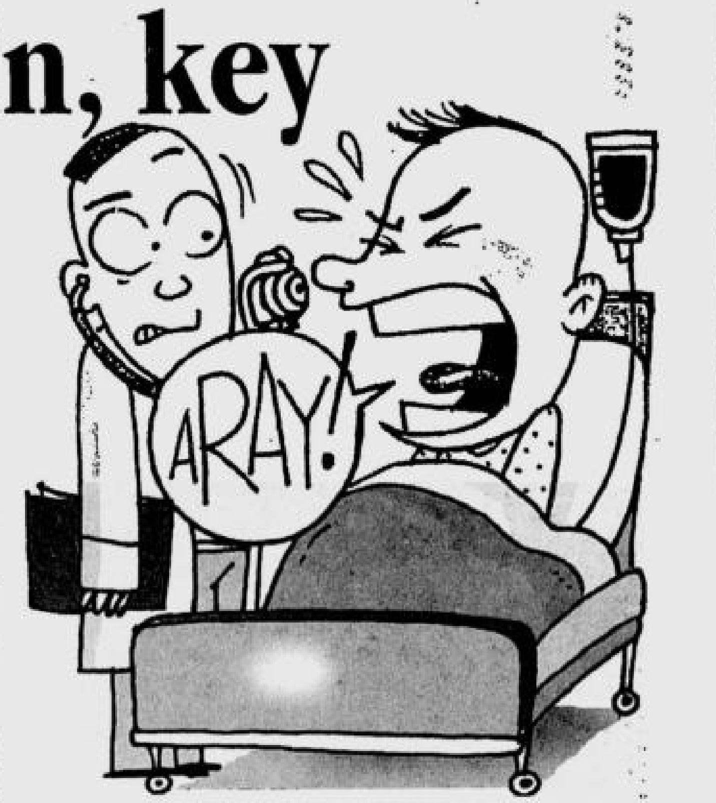
Understanding nerve pain, key to patient management



By Charles E. Buban

PEOPLE usually think of pain as having some physical cause; so for the pain to go away, one must get rid of the cause. For example, when you bump your head, you apply cold compress on the bump.

However, nerves themselves can also generate pain, and this pain often doesn't go away easily.

"This is what we call neuropathic pain, which can be puzzling and frustrating for people who have it and for doctors who treat it," said Dr. Henry Lu, incoming president of the Pain Society of the Philippines.

Neuropathic pain is a type of chronic pain (one that lasts for a long time) caused by injury or disease of the peripheral or central nervous system and is often underdiagnosed. The pain can last indefinitely, may escalate over time and can result in pain-related sleep interference, depression, anxiety and, in some cases, severe disability.

"Unlike ordinary pain, this type does not protect or warn you. Instead, the nervous system breaks down and becomes the cause of the pain. The pain can continue for months or years and is often described as burning, electric, tingling or shooting," said Lu.

Causes of pain

According to Lu, the most common causes of neuropathic pain are painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (a complication of diabetes) and postherpetic neuralgia (a complication of shingles).

Spine surgery and cancer chemotherapy may also cause neuropathic pain,

Lu said that when a patient comes to him complaining of pain that has no known cause, he would usually ask some specific questions to help him define the type of pain involved:

- Do you have any accompanying conditions, such as diabetes, shingles or multiple sclerosis?
- How would you describe the pain?
- Is your pain worse at any time of the day or night? (Neuropathic pain is usually worse at night.)
- Is the pain triggered by minor irritation, such as rubbing against the sheets at night?

Treatable

The goal of pain management is to improve function, enabling individuals to work, attend school or participate in other day-to-day activities.

"We should remember that whatever the treatment regime, pain is treatable," said Lu.

But there are times when the standard array of non-narcotic analgesics like acetaminophen, aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs and COX 2 inhibitors) have little effect on neuropathic pain.

Lu said different classes of drugs have been developed recently to help people suffering from neuropathic pain.

Opiods

Studies show that opioids can safely relieve many types of neuropathic pain. But although effective, these drugs, including morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone and tramadol, should be taken with care.

Gabapentin is another drug used to relieve neuropathic pain. Unlike opiods, it is safe and has few unpleasant side effects other than sedation.

The drug's huge success in the neuropathic pain market has encouraged its manufacturer, Pfizer, to develop another drug called pregabalin.

According to Pfizer, the drug's safety and efficacy was established in at least six double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials.

Lu said that while neuropathic pain is often difficult to treat, new medicines and better approaches are now available.

He said: "It is great that research in this field is active and this promises to provide further improvements in the management of pain in the near future."

The cell phone myth

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

CELL PHONES do not really cause explosions at gas stations. Last year I wrote a column explaining the science behind this issue. My source then was outstanding physicist Dr. Gregory Tangonan, who discussed the topic in my class. This year Greg [goriot@earthlink.net] sent me the article "Anatomy of a Techno-Myth" from the May 23 issue of The Economist, which attributed this fear regarding cell phone use to human beliefs.

Greg says, "This is really interesting because science does not matter here. What matters are people's attitudes about technology. So attitudes will trump good science anytime fear conquers reason, which is often."

University of Kent sociologist Dr. Adam Burgess has researched widely on cell phones and explosions, and concluded that the whole thing was nothing more than an urban myth. How did it start?

According to the article, the oil industry had a concerted safety drive in the late '80s just as mobile phone use started becoming widespread. The drive was in response to the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988, when 167 people died during an explosion in an oil platform off the Scottish coast. The safety drive was so extensive that employees in some British oil company offices were required to use handrails while walking up and down the stairs.

Given the worry that an electrical spark might ignite explosive fumes, nobody questioned the ban on the use of mobile phones in gasoline stations.

By the late 1990s, however, cell phone manufacturers, after conducting their own research, realized that there was no danger of phones causing explosions since they could not generate the required sparks.

Static electricity

Investigation from fire-safety experts concluded that a lot of fires in gas stations were caused by sparks igniting gasoline vapor, but they were caused by static electricity, not electrical devices such as cell phones. A common example of this phenomenon is when a driver experiences a small electric shock while getting out his car. Friction between the driver and the seat makes them both electrically charged, so when the former touches the metal frame of the car, electric shock sometimes happens.

The Internet is no help. Hoax memos regarding cell phones and gas explosions proliferate (I once received 10 warnings in a single day).

The Economist article states: "Such memos generally explain static fires quite accurately, but mistakenly attribute them to mobile phones. Official denials, says Dr. Burgess, simply inflame the suspicions of conspiracy theorists. Despite the lack of evidence that mobile phones can cause explosions, bans remain in place around the world."

What are we to conclude? I'll let the article have the last word: "The safety of mobile phones would appear to be not so much the province of the hard science of physics, as of the soft science of sociology."

For the complete story, go to http://www.economist.com/science/displayStory.cfm?story_id=3786384.

Choosing a good school

On another matter, Gerry and Cris Brioso [cmbrioso@hotmail.com] write:

We are thankful that you are bringing math closer to readers. Our son, a sixth grader, is a math enthusiast. He is currently studying at one of the Philippine schools here in Kuwait. He will be graduating with honors and he will be receiving the Best in Math award. We are thinking of a very good school where our child can further enhance his math skills. Can you recommend some?

Congratulations on your son's achievement! I am sure part of the reason lies in his having supportive parents. You are right to be concerned about quality of education. However, I am not sure where your son will be studying. Is it there in Kuwait, or here in the Philippines?

I asked colleagues and did some research on math in Kuwait, but unfortunately, I don't have enough information to compare the standards of the schools there. However, if your son is coming back to the Philippines, he can always try our science high schools, which can help him further develop his skills.

Review centers

Donna [hneybrix@my.smart.com.ph] is inquiring about good review centers in Metro Manila.

I have a bias against tutorial and review centers that cater to more than 10 students at one time. A review center, of course, depends a lot on the quality of its teachers, and so far, none of them have stood out. I suggest you try (and pay for) a few days in each center, and do not commit long-term unless you are satisfied. Many of my students review on their own. There are a lot of review books available in major bookstores.

Reader Dta [pc_list2@yahoo.com], who shares my love for puzzles, gives me an update on a riddle:

Perhaps you've already checked out this site called http://deathball.net/notpron/ which is subtitled "The hardest riddle available on the Internet," consisting currently of 81 levels.

Thank you for recommending the site. I checked it out, and indeed, the puzzle is very challenging. I have not made much headway at this point, but I am sure some of you readers will find this fascinating. Good luck!

To have and to vole

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

MANY girls dream of being a June bride, of vowing to love, honor and cherish their spouses "till death do us part." Sadly, many marriages these days end way before that theory can be put to the test. Monogamy, it seems, is not easy for humans.

Some may argue that the challenge of staying monogamous is what makes a relationship worthwhile. Yet many scientific studies have revealed that many species do not practice monogamy.

Indeed, in her book, "Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation," Olivia Judson writes that "nowadays, if animals live in pairs, they are said to be socially monogamous—a term that makes no assumptions about their sex lives... Lasting fidelity is rare because it's seldom in the interest of one of the parties, never mind both."

Fidelity genes

As human beings however, polygamy is not culturally acceptable. How then can people ensure a long and happy marriage? Perhaps they should check to see if the men have fidelity genes like the prairie voles.

Five years ago, researchers at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center of Emory University studied the palm-sized rodent, and its cousin, the meadow vole. The latter tend to father children among several female voles without much interest in any of them. On the other hand, the male prairie vole, once it has picked its mate and the union consummated, becomes a jealous guardian of its chosen female and a good co-parent of their children.

Psychiatrist Larry Young co-authored the 1999 study, which noted that the prairie vole's behavior could be attributed to the release of a hormone called vasopressin, which binds to particular receptors known as the V1a receptors in the rodent's brain during sex.

When the vasopressin receptors were blocked, the prairie vole behaved as if he'd never lost his heart and mind—literally one might say in this case—to a female.

Longer DNA sequences

Recently Young and his colleagues at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and at Atlanta's Center for Behavioral Neuroscience revisited the story of the voles and the V1a receptors. In a paper, which appears in the June 10 issue of Nature, they report that the prairie voles' vasopressin-influenced behavior is related to the long repetitive DNA sequences within a particular region of the gene that encodes their V1a receptors, called avpr1a. In the meadow vole, the same DNA sequences are significantly shorter.

Previous studies by Young and his colleagues showed that the ventral pallidum, a key reward center of the brains of male prairie voles, have high levels of vasopressin receptors.

Interestingly, male meadow voles have low levels of the same receptor in the same portion of the brain.

The researchers then set out to determine whether or not the presence or absence of the vasopressin receptors determined the vole's faithfulness to its chosen mate.

Feeling good

Young et al. took several long-allele (or long repetitive DNA sequences) and short-allele male voles and placed them in the company of two females: their respective mates and a "sexually receptive female." Bearing in mind Dr. Judson's definition of monogamy, Young et al. defined faithfulness as a male vole spending twice as much time with his mate than with the stranger female. They found that the long-DNA sequence voles met their criteria, while the short-DNA sequence voles treated both females the same way.

"We think what happens is that when the [prairie] voles mate, vasopressin activates the reward center, and it really makes the animals pay attention to who they are mating with," Young told BBC News Online. "It makes the voles think, 'When I'm with this partner I feel good.' And from then on, they want to spend their time with that particular partner."

The news is encouraging, but before people start dreaming of turning players into keepers, it should be noted that Young et al. found that not all species have the same response to increased levels of vasopressin.

The montane vole, for example, becomes more aware of his own personal hygiene when his V1a receptors are stimulated.

How the avpr1a gene affects human social behavior, and specifically how humans form relationships, isn't exactly clear at this point, although the sequences have been found to differ from that in other primates. Still, brides-to-be should remember that although the effect of the avpr1a gene isn't fully understood in humans, size does matter.

Fungi-killing mosquito may help fight malaria

IN A FINDING that may open promising new ways to attack malaria, scientists reported that two fungi that are harmless to humans and the environment can be used to kill mosquitoes.

The fungi are already licensed in Western countries to control aphids; termites and other pests, according to two studies in the journal Science.

One of the researchers, Dr. Matt B. Thomas, a biologist at Imperial College in London, estimated that a "deliverable product" could be ready in three to five years, if he can get financing for further research.

Malaria kills more than one million people a year, mostly children under 5 and pregnant women. Despite the advent of new drugs and better mosquito nets, some experts say deaths may be increasing.

Moreover, mosquitoes eventually develop resistance to chemical pesticides used on them, including DDT.

No resistance to fatal fungi has been reported among agricultural pests, Thomas said.

Encouraging findings

Scientists not connected with the research called the findings encouraging.

Dr. Kent Campbell, former chief of the malaria branch at the US Centers for Disease Control, said, "I'd like to see a lot more research, but this is fascinating."

In the first study, scientists from Imperial College and the University of Edinburgh sprayed oil containing *Beauveria bassiana* fungus into cardboard pots. Mosquitoes that had taken blood meals were put into the pots for six hours, the minimum time they usually rest on a sprayed wall to digest before flying outside to lay eggs.

Many mosquitoes died within 14 days, the time it usually takes the malaria parasite to move from the mosquito's abdomen into its saliva so it can be transmitted.

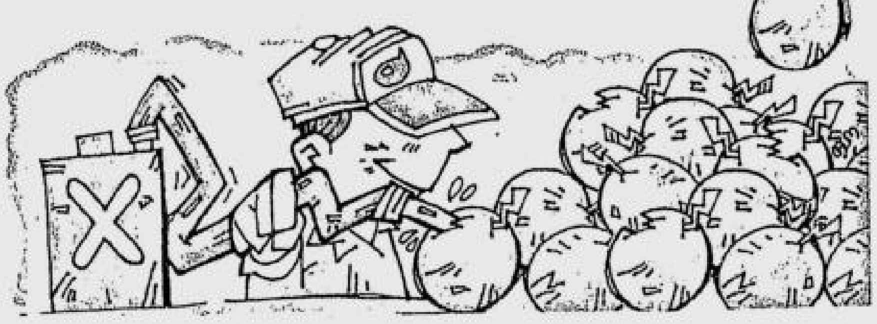
In the second study, scientists from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the Ifakara Health Research Center in Tanzania hung black cotton sheets smeared with the *Metarhizium anisopliae* fungus in five huts in a Tanzanian village, while clean black sheets were hung in five control huts.

Mosquitoes were collected alive for three weeks. About 23 percent of those caught in the huts with fungus sheets developed fungus infections, and they typically died in less than four days, compared with more than nine days for fungus-free mosquitoes.

New York Times

Alternative energy source in Romblon to reduce dependence on diesel

By Tessa Salazar



AN ALTERNATIVE fuel source for power plants and diesel engines will be available in Romblon as soon as engineers finalize fine-tuning the operations of a coco methyl ester plant there.

Coco methyl ester (CME), a biofuel derived from copra, is being pushed as an energy source to help reduce Romblon's dependence on diesel shipped from Manila. Diesel fuel in Romblon is P2 more expensive per liter compared to prices in Metro Manila.

CME is also said to be renewable and environment friendly. It has no sulfur and emits less smoke.

The Romblon plant, which can process 5,000 kg of copra per day, is expected to produce 3,000 liters of CME per day. If the project becomes successful, more CME plants would be put up in other parts of the country.

Stakeholders

The plant's major stakeholders are the Department of Science and Technology, the office of Gov. Perpetuo B. Ylagan, the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD) and the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish multipurpose cooperative.

Albert Marino, senior science research specialist, said it took four years to put up the CME plant. Before the plant infrastructure was put up, information and education campaigns in the community were conducted.

"The people of Romblon didn't know how to process coconut oil. [We convinced them] that the abundant supply of coconut...would make producing CME cheaper than using diesel fuel, that this could be economical in a village level setting," Marino said.

Engine lubricity

PCIERD engineers have observed that applying CME in the engine increases its lubricity, which helps reduce wear and tear.

But the Philippine Institute of Petroleum has insisted that the government thoroughly study the storage, handling and distribution of CME and conduct long-term tests on how the product would affect a vehicle's engine in the long term.

Marino, who has been using CME in his car for three years, said government vehicles are required to use a one-percent CME blend in their fuel mix. Each government agency, he said, is supposed to report its use and consumption of biofuels to the Department of Energy.

"You can even put 100 percent CME in a diesel engine, but the problem is that it is still too expensive. The current market price of CME is P120 per liter in Manila versus about P28 per liter of diesel. The only economical mix is one percent. But at one percent you can get improvements in your emission and lubricity," said Marino.

Cost

Marino said the National Power Corporation is thinking of using CME from the Romblon plant to meet 10 percent of its requirements in the province. He said an NPC power barge in Romblon would be tested using CME.

PCIERD deputy director Raul Sabularse said they wanted to know what effect the Romblon plant would have on local prices of CME.

PCIERD initially estimated total production cost to be less than P20 per liter, said Marino.

"Of course, production costs would be dependent on other variables such as prices of raw materials, methanol, labor and productivity," he said.

Dismal adherence to treatment guidelines

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

MILAN—This city is not only a center of fashion; it's also fast becoming a center for scientific research. Thousands of medical experts gather here this week for the annual scientific meeting of the European Society of Hypertension which runs until June 21. Updates and new trends in the management of high blood pressure and its myriad of complications are being discussed by world-renowned experts.

Heart failure, or HF, is one complication of hypertension which can turn a hardworking head of the family into a cardiac invalid if not detected early and treated properly. It's somewhat consoling for a doctor in a developing country that even in developed countries, as shown in several European trials, only half of HF patients are correctly diagnosed.

Hypertensive patients with HF usually experience difficulty in breathing (dyspnea) and edema, or swelling of the extremities, but these may also be found in other medical problems like chronic obstructive lung disease.

Medical work-up

According to the EuroHeart Failure Survey (Part 1), only one-third of patients are being worked up properly to determine the root cause of HF and the extent of cardiac dysfunction.

If this is the scenario in European countries wherein almost all medical expenses can be reimbursed, one can just imagine how much worse it is in countries like ours wherein the cost of most medical work-ups is shouldered by the patient.

Part 2 of the survey showed a less-than-satisfactory adherence to recommended treatments. Panels of experts from medical societies like the ESH periodically give treatment guidelines based on the extensive pool of scientific data reviewed by expert panels. This is disseminated to physicians during conventions and through medical journals or the lay media.

We've always lamented the poor adherence to these guidelines in the Philippines, even though our physicians are exposed to these updated recommendations. For a while, I thought this was such a dismal reflection of the kind of medical practice we have in our country. But apparently, I'm wrong.

It seems there are a lot of factors in actual medical practice that may make the doctor deviate from recommended guidelines. It's logical to think that treatment guidelines are just meant to be a guide and not a rigid rule of treatment to be followed in all cases one encounters in the clinic.

But I think these guidelines, being the synthesized recommendations from the finest clinical trials and researches in huge populations of patients, should be applicable to a big majority of patients, not only in one-third of patients.

Adherence gap

This adherence gap is true for most guidelines. In HF, for example, beta-blockers and angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors are recommended as essential drugs. Recently angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) have been added as excellent alternatives to those who cannot tolerate ACE inhibitors.

But beta-blockers are only used in 10 percent of cases in Spain and 20 percent of cases in the United Kingdom. ACE inhibitors are also used in less than half of HF cases in some European countries. ARBs are used sparingly in many countries.

The big gap in the application of these guidelines remains a puzzle. But it might not be fair to blame it for the large number of HF deaths: 14 out of 100 will die in 12 weeks; more than half will no longer be around in five years; and practically everyone diagnosed with HF shall have died in 10 years.

Tomorrow, I'll have the privilege of chairing an important symposium discussing this important concern in HF treatment.

Renowned HF expert Prof. Aldo Maggioni, head of the research center of the Italian Association of Hospital Cardiologists, will be the main speaker.

It should be an interesting symposium and we hope to get some answers to the many questions bugging us on HF and the poor adherence to its treatment guidelines.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Cleft lip

MY friend's baby was born with a cleft lip. I'm sure they need to see a specialist. Is there any?—April B.

A baby born with a cleft lip is best seen by a team of specialists. The team will not only care for the looks of the child but also his speech and eating. Usually the team is made up of a pediatrician, surgeon, pediatric dentist, orthodontist, speech pathologist and psychologist. If the palate is involved then a prosthodontist is also needed.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

UST sets 33rd postgrad course

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery will hold its 33rd annual postgraduate course on July 6-8.

With the theme "Traditions and New Concepts," the course will be conducted at the CME auditorium, St. Martin de Porres Building, UST.

This year's course director is Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology past president Dr. Rosendo R. Roque.

Deadline for preregistration is June 30. For details, call Mylene at 732-9292.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2005

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ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
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PERSONAL

COSMETOLOGY

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P800 T-4545667;0918-9235216

MASSAGE

02-3233269 BEST BOYS

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AKHIN CEBU MLA 834-7357

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•Bachelor's 4546275•

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MLA:8657973 CEBU: (032) 2562187

BLUE HOUSE
780-3339

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MLA:4567993 CEBU: (032) 2563809

BOYZONE 719-7262

Candy 8971506;09212085309

COMPLETE WHOLE BODY MASSAGE 8238456, 09179723043

GQUEENS MASSAGE 752-0018

★HUMAN TOUCH 4541084

•HOLLYWOOD 456-0799•

HOT BABES 719-7066

•HUNKS 4533803•

JV MALE MASSEUR 09215687601

MALE MASSAGE
374-8480

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Service • 0915-4083339

MANHUNT REFLEX
720 EDSA QC 4397659

MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MASSAGE JM 0928-3534408

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1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

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PINOY HUNK 0927-8481636

★★ Mr EARTH SPA ★★
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RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Mege Lic 0921-7569278

THE HUNKS
0910-8478064

Ultimus: HOT YOUNG MALE MASSEUR 1143-I Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City 4107326 09287550888 / 09215101010

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09195367404

★ Feels Good 4127758 ★

Heartthrob Spa & Reflex
779 Aurora Cbao 4128104

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maids Yaya Mid-wife 7289060

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•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09163416775

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Coml/Resl nr UP Ateneo 204 to 1,200m² P8,500 up/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

NEW RUSH SALE
2STRY 5.9M 5BRM 4TB+TUB BLCNY TERCE LANAI GRDN FA 280 LA 186 DBO •CALL 09185044735 & 8739819•

P1.1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

MARIKINA

CONCEPCION 1 FA 118.86m² LA274m² 3bdrms 2T&B P2.4M VIC /Gigie 8903461 LOC 27

Provident VII nr Ateneo 413m² P6M neg 413m² w/3hse nr gate Rush 9488240/0338423

MUNTINLUPA

Ayalabang 1143 Sqm
4BR Backng Crse
P46M 0918-9246504

PARANAQUE

Better Living 291M² LA 250M² FA 3br 3tb 2Car Grge Morning Sun NR Church w/ H2O tank 3.3M terms ok Cel#09189389792

HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE!
5 mins from Airport!
Concorde Vill, Pque
2-sty w/ attic, veranda, 7BR, studio, 3-car garage P12M Neg Call Art 09209120176 / 8518175

PASIG

KAPTOLYO LA295m² 5BR/5TB P10.3M 7460237 • 09178125791

QUEZON CITY

•KAMIAS # 11K-I cor. K-6th.•
9210255 9219967 9209822

NOVA HILLCREST VIL 2BR 1.5M 9226477; 09196131015

RUSH SALE!
IT'S BIG! BUT IT'S CHEAP
2 STY 5BR 7T&B 900SQM LOT
W/ 1,350SQM BACK LOT
EASEMENT #41 XAVIERVILLE
AVE. LOYOLA HEIGHTS Q.C.
TEL. # 259-3176

Teacher's Vill 400m² P6M 9845427 0915-2743170 Aurng

RIZAL

2Sty Kingsville Subd. Antipolo 120m² 3br Grg 4.5M 8040067

ANTIPOLO P558T - P868T Thru Pag-ibig 0917-3258805

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HOUSE & LOT

SAN JUAN

L.MENCIAS NR P. GUEVARRA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm 1-2 GRGE P3.645M up 8903461

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs Tel 9390299

3,400/mo-25yrs Tel 5208410

CAVITE

BUNGALOW FA100SQM 4BR 1.8M LOT 624SQM 09214565289

CAMELLA HOMES LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.6M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa Low D/P Price Range P1.3M to 2M Edna 0917-8302369

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.5M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

1.3M RESORT-TYPE nr Mktl 2-4BR 12T/mo or No DP or 0% 1st Class • Boss 0917-5234223

P1.4M nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
15K M/A 10%DP to Move-in Rent to Own! 0920-2360928

Alg Mktl Ave 1.5M 240-1275

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BNew • Studio Type, 1&2br Nr DLSU, CSB, St Scho, EZ Access to public places 5667 Ampere St Palanan T#844-6760 • 0917-5409656 READY FOR OCCUPANCY

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Condo Nr. D'Fort & C5
12K/mo. NoDP 0918-4131377

Rockwell Luna Penthouse
P33M 0918-9246504

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CONDO nr. Makati
nr Across the Fort 10%DP Move-In 2-3br 55m² 1.4M Up 0921-8165150

FOR SALE 1 Unit Condo, 2 Bedroom, 7.3M LEGAZPI PARK Makati City Contact Rowena Rosalena Cel #09206388388 : 09208603333

Mkti Condo 2.8M
2BR 2TB FA78m² 9125847

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FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL 29/F 306 SQM 4BR 5TB VIEW OF GOLF,CITY,SEA, BETTER THAN NEW. UP GRADED! 0918-8884448 • 816-2021 P21M RUSH! 3% BROKERS

MANILA

Alg Taft Ave 1.5M 240-1275

CONDO Infront La Salle RUSH SALE! Burgundy Corp Tower 16/F 21sqm P1.2M Neg Call Art 09209120176 / 8518175

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb P3.860M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PASIG

AIC Condo 2BR 167m² w/park FF 7.9M 6717361 • 671-9484

QUEZON CITY

4BR w/grge Sikatuna Vil nr UP Ateneo Glori-Mart 9215328 6582410 09166496838

Cubao P1.5M Terms 9120976

Katipunan Townhouses
Near Miriam, Ateneo & U.P. Installment • 0918-9373052

TEACHER'S VIL
18Mahabagin St 5BR 4T&B
9132701 / 0918-9356368

SAN JUAN

CONDO GREENHILLS
89sqm w/Parking 2BR w/Mds RM 2.5M Neg. Nr Xavier School 0927-9138891

Nr. Greenhills Thse Blg 7239126

OTHER AREAS

Boracay Condotel 3.8M
EARN P520T/Yr. ROI 5Yrs. P75T/mo. or 1Yr. No Interest Fully Furnished 0917-8313226

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MANILA

900 m² 2227 Taft Ave nr LaSalleT#8992148/ 09173270675

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Comm'l Lot Edsa 400m² 6453731

MARIKINA

1578sq.m Cremo St 634-1212

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest I&II
300m² &up 9125847/3744

OTHER AREAS

Canyon Woods-Tagaytay
1.8M Up 10% DP 5Yrs No Int. 300m² Lots, Condo, T-Hse, H&L, FREE Golf Share 0917-8313226

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m²-up 3,568/m² 6609372

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

3049SQM SOUTHERN PLAINS CANLUBANG 5500/SQM (NEG) 09178342924 09175204327

RUSH! 192m². Adj. lots In-Hse Financing. Southpeak1, San Pedro 0920-654-0954

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Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna LA176sqm P500K + Asmo. Balnce (thru pag-ibig or bank loan) or cash. DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

MEMORIAL LOT

NORTH CEMETERY 4PLOT COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULT EMIL 533-5730 / 0927-7102158

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

•3BR FORT BONI 8872865•

MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB Grg 0918-9336940

GREENHILLS EAST 4BR 7TB 1maids room cabana spool garden 9270072 / 4260205

MUNTINLUPA

Ayalabang Fully Furnshd 3BR+Den, Pool 0918-9246504

PASIG

3BR 2TB U/D Strong H2O P11T/mo. T-9162410

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

FOR RENT
JUPITER PLACE
COMMERCIAL SPACE
w/ 100 PARKING SPACES
PLS. INQUIRE FOR YOUR AREA REQUIREMENTS
PREFERABLY FOR SHOWROOM
LOOK FOR RONALD
896-14-14 / 0920 868-54-55

HOUSE

Valle Verde 3BR 727-5056

QUEZON CITY

Scout RES / OFF 372-3326

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 Furn 1BR P13T 9299835

Mkt Studio 35m² P9T 1BR+MdRm. 60m² P12T Prkg/NoDue 8906374

PASIG

Nice CONDO Unit 2Flr 2br Maybunga Pasig 627-6404

Renaissace 1BR 727-5056

QUEZON CITY

Stud V.Luna 7T & up 815-6172

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2 BR APT BRGY. POBLACION NR (WALKING DISTANCE FROM) ROCKWELL NEWLY RENOVATED 14T/MO CALL • 09209506052 ITO • 6722320 GIGI

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PASIG

Kapitolyo
2BR 2TB 13TH 6377735

QUEZON CITY

2BR screen T410-0565

3BR grg 23Mapgbigay 9210026

Cubao 7,500 2sty 2BR 9121163

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P200!! 8275345

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P120 only! Cool 711-8679
WINDSOR INN, Maceda St
nr 7-11 Dimasalang Mla

MAKATI

MKt nr Ayala M/F Nice w/Prkg Free Utilg FlexTerm 8979417

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054328 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Emie 8903461 loc 25/23

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MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

w/Prkg 10T/mo #5487 Boyle Palanan Mkti 8040067 8320270

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Acacia Gov. Pascual
Concrete Warehouse
Area: 2,175 sqm.
Rent: P75/sqm/mo+VAT
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Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

MAKATI

Makati Manila RFO CONDO Sale / Rent 09176266516

OTHER AREAS

3stry apt 2.5M Paco #5233840

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02 Pajero 2x4 1.1M A/T 02 Adventure A/T 1st Own 0927-2045534 or 655-5988

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'02 ALTIS 1.8G P650K 09228365401

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MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

STAREX'05 MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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(FOR THE PHILIPPINE OFFICE)

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asianregion@just-advantages.com

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the following employees had resigned from **HFS Philippines, Inc.**

1. **JOVENCIO C. PAJATIN JR.**
   (Effective May 8, 2005)
2. **MARICAR C. BALOY**
   (Effective May 27, 2005)

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid employees on behalf of the company shall not be honored.

(This Ad is in compliance with POEA requirement.)
(PDI–June 18, 2005)

NOTICE

HOMEWORLD ENGINEERING announces the conversion of the company from sole proprietorship construction firm to a Corporation, under the new business name **HOMEWORLD CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION** with principal office address at 3rd Floor Centroplex Mall, Gonzaga-Locsin Sts., Bacolod City per approved Certificate of Incorporation Company No. CS200526966 by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) dated May 6, 2005.
(PDI – June 18, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Auto Express 5221001-02

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112647/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8969454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6567665

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/ Rental/Service 8014494(046)-14771344 09179870067

CELLPHONE & ACCESSORIES

NEW NOKIA 6670 AT P17,500 & NOKIA 1100 AT P3,100 NEG. CONTACT 09267112655

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
341st & 342nd PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
JUNE 18 & 19, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Ms. GLENYS ALEXANDER
(Australia)
Ms. SUE SUTHERLAND
(Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Saturday, June 18, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Sporting Grp & Terrier Grp
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group/Toy Group
Sunday, June 19, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
SCIENCE DIET
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ROYAL CANIN
ALPO DOG FOOD

GARAGE SALE

Verdana Homes
2day Garage Sale-food, toys, furniture, books, magazines, electronic devices, appliances, clothes and collectibles
Clubhouse-Social Hall
June 18 to 19, 2005
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

★PUGS/SHARPEIS 3725231

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on
June 25, 2005
at 9:00 AM.
Including all items pawned up to January 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Cert. #A-1917 issued to Bernardo B. Trinidad June 4, 11, 18, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors/Stockholders of Philippine Metal Resources Corp. held on Nov. 15, 2004, the Board decided that the Corporation be retired, dissolved and closed for business effective December 31, 2004.

(PDI – June 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Consign 09178830002

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OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
Website: www.info.com.ph/~afpmod • Email: pid@info.com,ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the shipment of two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM) Wildcat gunboats of the Philippine Navy from Chinhae Naval Base, Jinhae, Busan, South Korea to Manila South Harbor Anchorage Area, Manila, Philippines. It has an approved budget of **NINETEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php 19,250,000.00)**, chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 Funds.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the bid documents at the above address from **June 17 until June 30, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

A complete set of bid documents may be purchased at the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)*. The mode of payment will be through *cash/cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund*. The bid documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative. Representatives, however, are required to present a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the prospective bidder before the bid documents are released and before any other transactions in connection therewith is entertained.

Interested bidders shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM Gunboats at the Chinhae Naval Base, Jinhae, Busan, South Korea upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of bids.

The AFP will hold a Pre-bid Conference to all interested parties on **June 30, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The deadline for the submission of bids shall be at **8:30 a.m. of July 18, 2005**. All bids must be accompanied with a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and its corresponding amount as prescribed in Section II of the bid documents, ITB. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at exactly 9:00 a.m. in the presence of the bidders, or their representatives, who choose to attend the proceedings at Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City together with some of the observers who will be invited.

The AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process, or reject all bids at any time before the contract is awarded, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **RADM JORGE G NECESITO AFP**
Chairman, AFP Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 18 & 24, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Massuer 18-25yo 09204540607

Wanted MALE MASSEUR with or without exp 18-24years old Call 4107326 ; 09215101010

FEMALE

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MALE/FEMALE

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URGENT!!
•CALL CENTER AGENTS 20-45yo fluent in English
•FOOD TECH graduate w/ related or sales exp 22-27yo Bring resume @ Unit E 1675 Rizalina2 Bldg Quezon Ave QC email:manos@mozcom.com 4112630•9298328•9269857

URGENTLY NEEDED
Female, accounting graduate, at least 30 years old, single with knowledge in computer & MSWord, Excel and Accounting system. Pls. call 523-2847 for appointment.

NORTHRAIL

North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (NorthRail) invites interested Survey Consultants to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to Bid, if considered eligible, for the Ground Relocation and Boundary Verification Survey, Aerial Photogrammetry including Digital Mapping of the Philippine National Railway (PNR) Right-of-Way (ROW), Section 2- Phase 1 (Malolos to Clark SEZ, Pampanga Section) of the NorthRail Project.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PhP 8,969,606.20**. All bids higher than the said ABC shall be rejected outright. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the Bidder's technical and financial proposals and the approved evaluation criteria set by the SPBAC. The Highest Rated Bidder shall be post-qualified before an award is made.

For those interested, Application Forms for Eligibility will be available for issuance on July 4-5, 2005 payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** and submission fo a **Letter of Intent** addressed to:

The Chairperson
Special Procurement, Bids and Award Committee
North Luzon Railways Corporation
2F Old Officers Clubhouse, JUSMAG Area
Philippine Army Recreation Center
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility shall be submitted on or before 5:00 PM of **12 July 2005** at the address mentioned above. Applications for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Only bidders found eligible or has been declared "Passed" will be invited to participate in the bidding.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulati9ons.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the above, you may get in touch with Engr. Jun Rulona, head of the Technical Working Group at Office telephone numbers 09178549254 and 09209606407.

NorthRail reserves the right to reject or accept any applications; and to annul or cancel the entire process, or reject all applications, as it may deem proper without incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

(Sgd.) **BENJAMIN L. PALOMIQUE, JR.**
Chairman, SPBAC

(PDI--June 18 & 24, 2005)

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on June 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m. 12th Floor, Suite 5, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
METRO MANILA			
AM-JA-074	Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo Manila	646 m² 5 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 267596 - 267599) with bldg. & imp.	P 18,039,800.00
AM-JA-075	Road Lot 5, Tindalo St. and Major Posadas Ave., Doña Rosario Heights Subd., Sucat, Muntinlupa City	1,812 m² adjoining 6 adjoining parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 14906 - 14909, 13919 & 13920) with bldg. & imp.	P 13,842,100.00
AM-JA-076	617 Bagumbayan St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila	384.70 m² residential-commercial lot (TCT No. 267593) with bldg. & imp.	P 6,635,700.00
BULACAN			
AM-PY-077	Brgy. Matang Tubig, Baliwag	21,533 m² adjoining 3 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-162317 - T162319) with bldg. & imp.	P 13,599,000.00
AM-MC-078	Lot 4-C Blk 1 corner New York & Atlanta Sts., Meycauayan	1,276 m² vacant industrial lot (TCT No. T-444211)	P 6,380,000.00
AM-PY-079	Lot 7 Blk 1, Grotto Ville Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte City	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-442273 (M)) with bldg. & imp.	P 167,200.00
COTABATO			
AM-JA-080	Poblacion, M'lang	901 m² commercial/residential lot (TCT No. T-105909) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,488,800.00
AM-JA-081	Sudapin, Kidapawan City	500 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-105911) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,783,400.00
AM-JA-082	Lot Nos. 42 & 115, Gayola, Kidapawan City	164,586 m² adjoining 2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-105910)	P 1,005,000.00
DAVAO			
AM-JA-083	Brgy. Babac, Malalag, Davao del Sur	63,816 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT Nos. T-52206) with bldg. & imp.	P 14,617,700.00
LAGUNA			
AM-JA-084a	Brgy. Magsaysay, San Pedro	102 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-265716) with bldg. & imp.	P 297,300.00
AM-JA-084b	Brgy. Magsaysay, San Pedro	106 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-210961) with shop/office bldg.	P 469,300.00
AM-JA-084c	Brgy. Magsaysay, San Pedro	93 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-210962)	P 130,200.00
RIZAL			
AM-JA-085	Lot 2 Blk 2, Monzon St., Vista Verde Exec. Village, Phase 9, Bo. Sto Domingo, Cainta	200 m² residential lot (TCT No. 655965) with 3-storey school bldg.	P 10,476,600.00
QUEZON			
AM-MC-086	Purok Bouganvilla, Brgy. Capalong, Real	7,715 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-26669)	P 1,777,800.00
CHATTELS			
AM-JA-087	617 Bagumbayan St., Bacood Sta. Mesa, Manila	Three (3) units Offset Press Machine	P 133,350.00 to 250,000.00
AM-JA-088a	Brgy. Babac, Malalag, Davao del Sur	Complete line of machinery & eqpt. for Coco-Oil Mill Plant	P 23,789,100.00
AM-JA-088b	Brgy. Babac, Malalag, Davao del Sur	One (1) lot Machine Shop eqpt.	P 168,200.00
AM-ED-089	La Campana Compound, EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City	2-washer/extractor GIRBAU and 2-Tumble Dryer, Unimac	P 1,050,600.00
AM-JA-090	La Campana Compound, EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City	Various chattels for mold and dies fabrication	P 60,000.00 to 210,000.00
AM-ED-091	Trigen Ice Plant, Numancia, Aklan	Various marble making machinery & eqpt.	P 1,000.00 to 165,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 18 & 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No.: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works : Design, site development and construction of 1,160 socialized housing units in Kasiglahan Village 1 Resettlement Project Phase 2 for informal settlers to be relocated from the banks of the Pasig River

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Kasiglahan Village 1 Resettlement Project (Phase 2)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), as the executing agency, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Design, Site Development and Construction of 1,160 Socialized Housing Units
Contract No.	EPA-RAP-H01
Location	Jovil 1 and 2, Kasiglahan Village 1, Rodriguez, Rizal
Contract Duration	360 Calendar Days
Project Description	Design, site development and construction of 1,160 socialized housing units, which include the following items of work: architectural works, structural works, electrical works, carpentry works, waterproofing, painting works, sanitary/plumbing works, water supply, site work, site improvement and drainage work, among others.

3. Proposals will be accepted from licensed private developers, GOP enterprises the majority of which is publicly-owned including local-government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) with demonstrated track record in the development of sustainable communities including social preparation, design and construction of socialized/low-cost housing units employing community-participation and post-relocation capability-building activities. Licensed private developers, GOP Enterprises/LGU and NGOs could submit proposals either as individual bidders, individual bidders with subcontractors or as joint ventures or partners. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Venue
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,500.00	June 15 to June 29, 2005	PRRC
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	June 16 to June 29, 2005	PRRC
Site Inspection	July 4, 2005/ 9:00 a.m.	NHA
Pre-Bid Conference	July 4, 2005/ 1:00 p.m.	NHA
Deadline for submission of Bids	October 4, 2005/ 10:00 a.m.	NHA
Opening of Bids	October 4, 2005/ 10:15 a.m.	NHA

4. The National Housing Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency of the Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works bid documents.
6. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) **FEDERICO A. LAXA**
General Manager, NHA

(PDI - June 11 & 18, 2005)

Taste of Manila 2005

THE Food Caterers' Association of the Philippines (FCAP) presents a culinary spectacle, dubbed as Taste of Manila 2005; another exciting 3-day feast for the senses starting June 17, at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The event offers a one-stop-shop for sourcing corporate functions and party needs, and provides the perfect opportunity for business-minded individuals to explore a possible food business venture through the numerous cooking demonstrations scheduled until June 19. Gates open at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information and other inquiries, please call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at tel. nos. 929-7963, 425-9603, 920-5515 or visit their web site, www.pepgroup.com or call Food Caterers' Association of the Philippines (FCAP), at 410-0394 or visit www.tasteofmanila.com. Photo shows the members of FCAP presenting this year's Taste of Manila 2005 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall from June 17 to 19.

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

VILMA VALDERAMA PEÑA

of Makati City

Died in the Grace of out Lord on June 14, 2005 at the age of 67.

She is survived by her husband **Romy** and her children, **Grace, Gideon, Gladys** and **George**, her family and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Galang Memorial Chapel. Interment will take place on June 19, 2005, Sunday. Cremation is at 4:00 p.m., Loyola Memorial Chapels.

DEATH NOTICES

VICTORINO A. MENDOZA

Surrendered to the solace of our Lord on June 17, 2005 at the age of 57.

Interment will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after a 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Philippine Independent Church in Marikina City.

PEDRO S. DECENA

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 16, 2005 at the age of 92.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Don Bosco Parish at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2005. Interment will follow immediately at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved PAPA and LOLO

DR. JOSE SIXTO REYES AREVALO

"Pepe"

of Leveriza St., Pasay City and Las Piñas City

Class of 1933, College of Medicine, University of Sto. Tomas
Retired Captain, Medical Corps, 41st Division, USAFFE

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 17, 2005 at the age of 97.

His loving wife, **Natividad** (†); children **Letty** (†), **Tony, Ting, Dodo, Ric** (**Edeng**); and daughters-in-law **Baby, Mercy** (†), **Lulu, Cory**; sisters **Nieves** and **Simona**; grandchildren **Rowena, Sarita, Jing, Joel, Anna, Lot, Dino, Carlo, Tina, Mark, Nicole, Rica, Raquel, Ria**, and their spouses; great grandchildren, together with relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Therese of Liseaux Chapel, Magallanes, South Superhighway, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 21, 2005, Tuesday, after the 8 a.m. Mass, at the Las Piñas Catholic Cemetery.

".. Yahweh gave, Yahweh has taken back,
Blessed be the name of Yahweh!"

Job 1:21

VIRGINIA FLORES CASINTAHAN

of Piddig, Ilocos Norte
formerly with US Veterans Administration

died peacefully and joined her Creator and husband, ***Ernesto Sr.*** *on June 16, 2005 at the age of 82.*

Her loving children **Ada** and **Stuart Aitken, Drs. Ernie** and **Liza, Renato** and **Charito, Albert** and **Helen**; grandchildren **Mark Ernest, John Brian** and **Kevin**; sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

IDA MACEDA ABAD

Pagsanjan, Laguna

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 15, 2005 at the age of 75.

Her bereaved husband **Francisco**, children **Reggie** and **Marivel, Nina** and **Ramon, Ed** (+) and **Nanette, Jim** and **Cynthia**
grandchildren, great grandchild and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

MARIA CABARRUBIAS VENTURA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 16, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved son **Effie**; brothers **Ramon** (†), **Modesto** (†), **Vicente**, and **Francisco**; sisters **Lutgarda, Leonides** (†), **Teresita, Nieves, Concepcion, Silvia** and **Narcisa**; and their respective spouses, relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at Chapel L, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 19, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park – Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

SBMABAC-INV-001-05

JUNE 16, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers wil be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed items:

A. ITEMS:	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET
ONE (1) LOT	SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER CAB GLASS PANEL AT BLDG. 8050, SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SBFZ.	P1,498,817.60

Scope of Work: The scope shall be the total rehabilitation of the air traffic control tower glass panel (insulating glass type) including frames and roll-up film curtains. The control tower has sixteen (16) units of glass panel (consist of exterior and interior glasses for each panel) installed which are to be removed and replaced with new sets of glass panels for uniformity together with its frames. The roll-up film curtains will be enhanced and cleared accordingly to give best visibility and function. The contractor will provide professional services and shall supply and install necessary materials for the attainment of the objectives.

B. Complete information/requirements and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the project will be provided upon issuance of bidding documents to all applicant suppliers/contractors.

C. Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to all Suppliers with the following requirements:

1. Article of incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (If not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (Received by authorized bank, certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Company PROFILE
8. List of projects (past and present)
9. List of Clients
10. Prospective Bidder's statement that he is not "blacklisted" from any other government/private companies
11. Prospective bidder shall certify under oath (Sec. 23.8 of RA 9184):
    - that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;
    - complete; and
    - that all statements and information therein are true and correct.

D. Issuance of Bidding Documents and Site Inspection is on **June 22-23 up to 5:00 p.m.** at the cost of **P1,000.00** which is non refundable.

E. Pre-Bid Conference schedule is on **June 27, 2005, (Monday) 2:00 p.m.** at PPMD Conference Rm., Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

F. Submission/Opening of Bids (Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals): **June 30, 2005 2:00 p.m. (SBMA Bundy Clock reckoning time)** at PPMD Conference Rm., Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, and evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
BAC Chairman

For inquiries please call:
BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. (047) 252-4283/4210
Fax No. (047) 252-4284/4251
Address:
PPMD Office
Bldg. 255, Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Philippines 2222

(PDI - June 18 & 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM CORPORATE OFFICE
4th Floor, Administration Building, MWSS Complex
Katipunan road, Balara, Quezon City 1105 Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63(+2) 922-3757; 922-2969 Fax No. +63(+2) 921-2887

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE PROPOSED BNAQ 6, PHASE 2: (11.50 km. NEW BICTI-NOVALICHES AQUEDUCT NO. 6)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) will undertake the construction of new tunnel and aqueduct (BNAQ-6 Phase 2) with a total length of about 11.50 km. that will be interconnected to the 5.50 km aqueduct (BNAQ-6 Phase 1). The interconnected aqueduct (BNAQ-6, Phases 1 & 2) will serve as a by-pass during rehabilitation of the existing aqueducts and will also be utilized to accommodate any additional supply from Angat and Umiray Rivers Basin.

MWSS secured a Technical Assistance Loan from ADB (TA Loan No. 2012 PHI) to finance the consultancy services of the project. The consulting services shall cover, among others the following:

1. Preparation of detailed engineering design and detailed cost estimates;
2. Preparation of bid/tender documents; and
3. Provide assistance to the MWSS BAC in the tender process (pre-bid conference, evaluation, etc.) leading to contract award.

MWSS therefore is inviting Foreign and Local consulting firms to submit their applications for pre-qualification together with their company profile and organizational structure which will provide information regarding their field of expertise and specialization and the experiences of key personnel who will be assigned to undertake the required consultancy services. On the basis of the submissions, MWSS will shortlist the consultancy firms.

Interested parties may secure the pre-qualification statement/forms and submit the same in five (5) sets (1-set original and 4-copies), together with the other required submittals, on or before 5:00 p.m. (Manila time) of **July 26, 2005** to the Office address stated below. Reference time shall be the bundy clock located at the same office. Late submission will not be accepted.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax No. (632) 922-2568

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - June 18 & 25, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC The Energy Company
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

SCHEDULE 1: BALANCE INSULATION AND CLADDING WORKS FOR LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (LGPF) STEAMLINE INTERCONNECTION PROJECT (STAGE 3) AND VARIOUS REFURBISHMENT AND REPAIR WORKS (EDC 05-054-1), AND

SCHEDULE 2: INSULATION AND CLADDING WORKS FOR LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD PAD 405 CONVERSION STAGE 2 (EDC 05-094)

The Approved Budget for **EDC 05-054-1** is **PhP 9,609,108.14** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The Approved Budget for **EDC 05-094** is **PhP 13,894,916.83** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund.

Both contracts shall be implemented simultaneously for a duration of **ninety (90) calendar days.**

Applications forms for eligibility and the bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o M C Banlo) starting June 10, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: **Three Thousand (PhP 3,000.00).**

Site inspection is on **June 16, 2005**. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **June 21, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor Bldg. V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of July 7, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--June 18, 2005)

JOB Market
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PNOC - ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ENERGY CENTER, MERRITT ROAD
FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY

PNOC The Energy Company

FOR SALE THRU SEALED BIDDING ON "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS
BID NO.: PMD-05-001

THE PNOC - ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PNOC-EDC) WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC BIDDING FOR THE SALE OF THE FOLLOWING JUNK AND UNSERVICEABLE ITEM/S:

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Floor Price w/ 10% VAT
	Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City c/o L. L. Silagan		
1	Various Household and Office Furniture & Equipment (Consisting of UPS, monitor, keyboard, drafting machine, PC notebook, fax machine, cabinet, car aircon, stand fan, calculator, chair, mini casette recorder, jet printer, river flowmeter, current meter, meter riverflow PH meter, atomic, absorption spectrometer, conductivity meter, multitester, suunto liquid filed compass, electric air cleaner, assorted sizes junk used tires, etc.)	1 Lot	P 24,750.00
2	Toyota Corolla, 4-door Sedan, 1.3XE 1993 Model w/ Plate No. TKB-173	1 Unit	P 88,000.00
3	Mitsubishi Gallant, 4-door, 1993 Model w/ Plate No. TMG-994	1 Unit	P 165,000.00
4	Toyota Corolla, 4-door Sedan, 1993 Model w/ Plate No. TKV-364	1 Unit	P 88,000.00
5	Toyota Corolla GLi 1.6, 4-door Sedan, 1994 Model w/ Plate No. TNV-356	1 Unit	P 99,000.00
6	Toyota Corolla GLi 1.6, 4-door Sedan, 1994 Model w/ Plate No. SED-550	1 Unit	P 121,000.00
7	Mitsubishi L-200, Double Cab Pick-up, 1994 Model w/ Plate No. TMK-344	1 Unit	P 110,000.00
	Sta Ana Warehouse, Baesa, Novaliches, Quezon City c/o Vic B. Eugenio		
8	Various Household and Office Furniture & Equipment (Consisting of keyboard, UPS, fax machine, typewriter, blower fan) Various FCRS spare parts (Consisting of ECC reducer, 42" dia x 30# dia, ECC reducer, 36" dia x 30 dia sch. 30, glass windshield, shaft assy, propeller, clamps/spacer rim, nipple, pipes, fitting grease, sodium silicate, various CAT and Toyota Land Cruiser parts, etc.)	1 Lot	P 24,200.00
	Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field-Ticala, Valencia (c/o C. R. Catacutan)		
9	Various Household and Office Furniture & Equipment (Consisting of aircons, printers, electric stoves, keyboards, chairs, cabinets, tables, UPS, gas selector, IBM, electric typewriter, sala set, digital thermometer, fluke, steel filing cabinets, stand fan, working bench, calculator, etc.) used tires (Assorted, approx. 264 pcs.)	1 Lot	P 37,400.00
10	Various Spares (Consisting of atlas copco air compressor model 2T45, ingersoll rand air, compressor model, SSR-EP/SSR-EPZ25U, joy, air compressor model RPS-650 DB24MS1, FCRS maintenance ferrari crane model WG6X4-257, hiab crane model OC02070# 2306, peerless pump, GMC Volvo, (ferrari crane) production E/I pneumatic valve actuator, electric valve actuator, control room intruments, electronic pressure transmitter spares, etc.)	1 Lot	P 146,588.87
11	Assorted FCRS Maintenance Spares	1 Lot	P1,439,135.15
12	Various Construction Supplies & Spares (Consisting of aircon, instrumentation, Toyota Land Cruiser, Bearing, Belts, etc.)	1 Lot	P 270,345.38
13	Assorted Isuzu and Mitsubishi Forklift Spares	1 Lot	P 150,096.92
14	Assorted Caterpillar Spares	1 Lot	P 409,332.99
15	Various Spares (Consisting of Kawasaki grass cutter, joy compressor and lister, mathey, hand tools, FCRS piping materials, intrumentation, sioux steam cleaner, rack, electrical tools/part 190" x 82 x 20", etc.)	1 Lot	P 73,942.25
16	Toyota Land Cruiser, Pick-up, 1990 Model, Plate No. PRW-745	1 Unit	P 44,000.00
17	Toyota Land Cruiser, Pick-up 1990 Model, Plate No. PSA-805	1 Unit	P 38,500.00
18	Toyota Land Cruiser, 1994 Model, Plate No. TME-336	1 Unit	P 55,000.00
	EDD/DEPOT (SNGPF)		
19	Junk Materials/Scrap Iron (Approx. 14,750 kgs.) Various Equipment (Consisting of water tank skid mounted 3,000 & 1,500 capacity, water pump, deutz, model F2L411D, H2S monitoring system electric drill, 3-sleeper Van, 8 man sleeper, portable battery charger, angle grinder, pump, hand lower type, bench vise, safety clamp, drillpipe elevator, 5" closet water, level hoist, gas indicator, portable handrill, pneumatic impact wrench, angle disc grinder, oxy-acetylene welding machine/cutting outfit, cooling tower frame, doghouse, water tank, rectangular approx. 40 x 6' x 6, 2-water tanks cylindrical, approx. 6' dia x 16' and 3' dia x 6', welding machine (trailer mounted) Various Household and Office Furniture (Consisting of table, chair cabinet, wooden Linen, aircon, etc.) Junk Items	1Lot	P 70,950.00
20	Low Bed Trailer	1 Unit	P 17,600.00
21	Draw works, IDECO, H-527, 650HP rating complete w/ standard accessories like spinning and breakout catheads, hydromatic brake, sandline coring reel; compound IDECO, 2 shafts in line, rotary table, IDECO Woodheld, 23" opening, substructure, 2 section, IDECO type B, 8'8" high 20" wide, 20' long, 300,000 lbs, casing capacity, 200,000 lbs. Pipe setback capacity, mast IDECO 132 JFM full view, 132' clear heigh, hook load capacity at 8 lines, 315 lbs, crown block, IDECO 525 X 36" and sheaves 1X 42"	1 Lot	P 990,000.00
22	Bulldozer, Caterpillar, Model D4E, serial no. 52X01425,	1 Unit	P 143,000.00
23	Toyota Land Cruiser, 1994 Model, Plate No. TME-394	1 Unit	P 77,000.00
24	Toyota Land Cruiser, 1994 Model, Plate No. TME-395	1 Unit	P 77,000.00

For details of above items, please refer to bid documents or call Lauriano L. Silagan at Tel. No. 8938001 local 5163.

Interested bidders may secure the bid forms from Property Management Department or at Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field (SNGPF) starting June 16, 2005 upon payment of a non- refundable fee of PESOS: Two Hundred (P200.00). Deadline for submission of bids is on July 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at PNOC-EDC, Property Management Department, First Floor, Building 5, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City or at SNGPF Project Site and publicly opened simultaneously immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC. The decision of PNOC-EDC shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) Mary Ann L. Matibag
Manager
Property Management Department

(PDI--June 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City • Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids on the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
ANTIPOLO CITY			
1.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-25171 Half Demolished, Unfit for Occupancy, Bungalow	Lot 11, Block 11, Catlleya Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 240,000.00
2.	180 sq.m. TCT No. R-26694 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 13 Block 12, Dinar Street, Lores Country Homes, Balimbing, Antipolo City	P 951,900.00
3.	150 sq.m. TCT No. R-25169 2 BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 38, Block 16, Gladiola Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 353,900.00
4.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-24635 2 BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 29 Block 10 Dama de Noche, Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 289,200.00
5.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-26125 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 9 Block 9 Duhat Drive, Phase II, Valley View Executive Village, Antipolo City	P 553,200.00
6.	180 sq.m. TCT No. R-26695 1BR & 1T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 15, Block 13 Piedra Blanca Subdivision, Antipolo City	P 483,200.00
7.	120 sqm. TCT No. R-27118 2BR & 1T&B bungalow	Lot 3 Blk. 3 Spring Beauty St., Antipolo Hills Subd., San Luis Antipolo City	P 493,800.00
8.	150 sq.m. TCT No. R-25397 2 BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 41 Block 17 Marigold Avenue, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 356,200.00
9.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R27844 2 BR & 1 T&B	Lot 15 Block 9 Phase II, Narcissus Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 314,500.00
10.	240 sq.m. TCT No. R-27117 3 BR & 2 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 9 Block 6 No. 24 Ochid Street Greenheights Newtown, Mayamot, Antipolo City	P 1,282,300.00
11.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 29186 2BR & 1T&B bungalow	Lot 30 Blk. 8 Narcissus St., Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 320,200.00
12.	188 sq.m. TCT No. R27257 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 23 Block 4 Steel Homes Subdivision, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 814,500.00
13.	121 sq.m. TCT No. R-28354 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 7 Block 23 Aster Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 286,200.00
14.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-27256 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 7 Block 4 Bouganvilla Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 331,800.00
15.	143 sq.m. TCT No. R-26127 2 BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 2, Block 5, Magnolia Street , corner Spiderlily Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 340,700.00
16.	180 sq.m. TCT No. R-27684 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 8 Block 1 Amapola Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 421,300.00
17.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-27685 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 8 Block 5 Spiderlily Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 450,600.00
18.	154 sq.m. TCT No. R-27686 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 32 Block 5 Shooting Star cor. Spiderlily Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 398,700.00
19.	142 sq.m. TCT No. R-24637 2 BR & 1T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 2, Block 4, Catlleya corner Marigold Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 341,000.00
20.	178 sq.m. TCT No. R-24634 2 BR & 1T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 9 Block 14 Amapola Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 517,000.00
21.	150 sq.m. TCT No. R-27640 2 BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 30 Block 16 Gladiola Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 345,000.00
22.	148 sq.m. TCT No. R-24636 2 BR & 1T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 19 Block 56, Atis Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 378,600.00
23.	138 sq.m. TCT No. 27689 No BR & No T&B Cannibalized Bungalow	Lot 3 Block 4 Hazel Street, Piedra Blanca, Antipolo City	P 288,800.00
24.	138 sq.m. TCT No. R-27614 1 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 12 Block 2 Piedra Blanca Subdivision, Antipolo City	P 314,100.00
25.	80 sq.m. TCT No.R-26352 No BR & 1 T&B Cannibalized & Abandoned	Lot 17-B Block 11 Petunia Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 143,800.00
26.	120 sq.m. TCT No.R-27687 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 20 Block 23 Azucena Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 300,100.00
27.	120 sq.m. TCT No 28353 No BR & No T&B Cannibalized & Abandoned	Lot 19 Block 9 Narcissus Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 263,400.00
28.	193 sq.m. TCT No. 192309 1 BR & 2 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow (TCT is under reconstitution)	Lot 7C Bo. San Jose, Antipolo City	P 503,000.00
29.	180 sq.m. TCT No. R-26802 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 2 Block 2, Steel Homes Subd., San Isidro, Antipolo City	P 747,000.00
30.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 27613 2 BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 19 Block 5 Catlleya Street, Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo City	P 296,900.00
31.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-27690 No BR & No T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 28 Block 5 Spiderlily Street, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 306,500.00
32.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-27843 2 BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 4 Block 7 Phase 2, Antipolo Hills, Antipolo City	P 300,500.00
CALOOCAN CITY			
33.	98 sq.m. TCT No. C-372467 2 BR & 1 T&B Fair Condition Bungalow	Lot 6 Block 5 Sagrado Village, Bagumbong, Deparo, Caloocan City	P 498,800.00
34.	86 sq.m. TCT No. C-373551 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 32 Block 16 Villa Magdalena III, Camarin, Novaliches, Caloocan City	P 408,900.00
35.	90sq.m. TCT No. C-374286 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 27 Block 4 Villa Magdalena III, Camarin, Novaliches, Caloocan City	P 516,300.00
36.	242 sq.m. TCT No. C-374287 2 BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 12 Block 14 # 24 Firebird Street, Bristonville Subdivision, Novaliches, Caloocan City	P 930,900.00
37.	86 sq.m. TCT No. C-373224 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 14 Block 16 Villa Magdalena III, Camarin, Caloocan City	P 388,100.00
38.	82 sq.m. TCT No. C-373223 3 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 20 Block 9 Villa Magdalena II, Camarin, Novaliches, Caloocan City	P 456,200.00
39.	120 sq.m. TCT No. C-365047 2 BR & 1 T&B fairly maintained	Lot 6, Blk. 3, Narra St., Hillcrest Village, Phase II-A, Camarin, Caloocan City	P 818,500.00
40.	104 sq.m. TCT No. C-371993 2 BR & 1 T&B Fair Condition, Bungalow	Lot 3 Block 9 Sagrado Village, Bagumbong, Deparo, Caloocan City	P 514,800.00
CAVITE			
41.	191 sq.m. TCT No.T-1032005 2 BR & 2 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 21, Block 2, Perpetual Village 8, Habay, Bacoor, Cavite	P 902,100.00
42.	180 sq.m. TCT No.T-1064387 2 BR & 1 T&B fairly Maintained Bungalow	No. 7 Lucban St., Bahayang Pagasa Pahse 7, Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite	P 874,900.00
43.	180 sq.m. TCT No.T-1033930 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 5, Blk. 5, Iban St., Bahayang Pagasa, Phase 7, Imus, Cavite	P 658,500.00
44.	207 sq.m. TCT no. T-1057905 2 BR each & 1 T&B Fairly Condition 1 Storey duplex	1-G Teacher's Village Magdiwang, San Jose, Noveleta, Cavite	P 500,000.00
LAS PIÑAS			
45.	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-94713 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 15 Block 22 # 32 Dao Road Pilar Village IV, Almanza, Las Piñas City	P 1,561,800.00
MARIKINA CITY			
46.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 449725 2BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	No. 2 Crimson Street, Bonita Homes, Concepcion, Marikina City	P 1,160,900.00
MUNTINLUPA CITY			
47.	125 sq.m. TCT No. 13712 No BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated/Cannibalized Bungalow	Lot 3, Block 1, Jasmin Street, RubyPark, Victoria Homes Subdivision, Tussnan, Muntinlupa City	P 389,100.00
48.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 14416 2 BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated bungalow	Lot 6, Blk. 3, Olympus St., Camelia II-E, Putatan, Muntinlupa City	P 815,000.00
49.	383 sq.m. TCT No. 13914 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 17, Block 3-C Jasmine Street, Ruby Park, Victoria Homes Subdivision, Muntinlupa City	P 1,031,200.00
50.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 14178 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 4 Block 4-F Purple Street, Sapphire Hills, Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 824,100.00
51.	102 sq.m. TCT No. 13586 2BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 9-D Emerald Hills, Victoria Homes Subdivision, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 305,300.00
52.	240 sq.m. TCT No..13780 2BR & 1T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 23, Block 5-J, Handle Street, Jade Heights, Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 879,100.00
53.	139 sq.m. TCT No. 13917 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 26 Block 6-A Pearl Heights, Victoria Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 656,000.00
54.	168 sq.m. TCT No. 14282 2BR & 1 T&B Deteriorated Bungalow	Lot 1, Emerald Hills, Victoria Homes Subdivision, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 401,400.00
55.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 14425 Maintained Bungalow 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly	Lot 4, Blk. 5-I, Jade Heights, Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 801,400.00
56.	151 sq.m. TCT No. 16084 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 22 Phase 6-A Pearl Heights, Victoria Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 684,700.00
57.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 13916 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 48 Block 5-G, Handle Street, Jade Heights, Victoria Homes Subd., Tusanan, Muntinlupa City	P 741,700.00
58.	150 sq.m. TCT No. 14063 3 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 23 Block 5 Mayapis Street, Villa Carolina II, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 941,000.00
59.	124 sq.m. TCT No. 14062 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 9-E, Emerald Hills, Victoria Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	P 389,500.00
PARAÑAQUE CITY			
60.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 161647 4 BR & 2 T&B Poor Condition Bungalow	Pres. J.P. Laurel Street, Malacañang Village, San Dionisio/San Antonio, Paranaque City	P 1,504,500.00
61.	251 sq.m. TCT No.161645 2 BR & 1T&B Deteriorated Unfinished Bungalow	Lot 20-A-18 Sta. Ana II, Sitio Libho, Bo. La Huerta, Paranaque City	P 928,600.00
62.	180 sq.m. TCT No.158218 3 BR & 2T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 12, Block 3, Blue Street, Goodwill Subdivision II, San Dionisio, Paranaque City	P 1,495,600.00
63.	128 sq.m. TCT No. 162043 4 BR & 2T&B Poorly Maintained 1 Storey duplex	Lot 1-A, Block 2 Sto Niño Bo. La Huerta, Paranaque City	P 558,600.00
VALENZUELA CITY			
64.	150 sq.m. TCT No. V-72155 2 BR & 1 T&B Poor Condition Bungalow	Lot 171-B-2-A 57 D Int. Faustino Street, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City	P 583,800.00
65.	184 sq.m. TCT No. V-73045 3 BR & 2T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 2-B, Hillside Ville Subd., Ugong, Valenzuela City *(with liabilities)*	P 761,300.00
66.	250 sq.m. TCT No. V-73037 3 BR & 2T&B very poor Condition Bungalow	Lot 1253-A-2-D-1, Candido St., Villa Candido, Gen J. De Leon, Valenzuela City	P 1,050,200.00
67.	150 sq.m. TCT No. V-73038 2 BR & 1 T&B Poor Condition Bungalow	115 Diamond Street Sta Lucia, Phase V, Punturin, Valenzuela City	P 647,600.00
RIZAL			
68.	125 sq.m. TCT No. B265 3BR & 1T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	96-B (lot 5 block 5) First Inter-Employees Village, Darangan, Binangonan, Rizal	P 624,600.00
69.	120 sq.m. TCT No. R-691319 2 BR & 1 T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 8 Block 2 Cherry Street, Apple Village, Cainta, Rizal	P 505,100.00
70.	142 sq.m. TCT No. B-280 3 BR & 1T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 4 Perez Compound, Calumpang, Binangonan, Rizal	P 526,700.00
71.	150 sq.m. TCT No. 691317 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 5 Block 5 The Village Subd., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	P 495,200.00
72.	150sq.m. TCT No. 449627 2 BR & 1T&B Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 31 Block 6 New York Street, Christineville Subdivision, Montalban Rizal	P 389,100.00
73.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 446928 Abandoned/Cannobalized	lot 4 Block 10 Morning Star Lane, Monterey Subd., San Mateo,Rizal	P 426,200.00
74.	192 sq.m. TCT No. 691318 2 BR & 1 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 13 Block 10 Grand Valley Subdivision, Mahabang, Parang, Angono, Rizal	P 480,000.00
75.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 691320 2 BR & 2 T&B Poorly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 2-F-3-C-6, Dela Cuesta Street, Muzon Hills Compound, Taytay, Rizal	P 586,800.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are available at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City. Please contact **Ms. Rose Fernandez** at telephone No. 920-64-01 local 5121 to 5127.

The sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, Quezon City, from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on **06 JULY 2005**. The bids should be addressed to Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to at least 30% (if bidder is former owner, their spouses, parents and children) or 10% (if bidder does not fall on the preceding category) of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/ U.S. dollar) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. The sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to the SSS. As a rule, cash bids shall be preferred over installment bids. An installment bid shall, however, be considered as more advantageous if the installment bid is greater by at least 20% over a cash bid. In case of installment bids, the bid with the shortest payment period shall be preferred unless the difference in the bids is greater by at least 20%, in which case the bid with the longer payment period shall be considered more advantageous to the SSS.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is". The winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable either in cash within 30 days or amortized up to a maximum of 120 months at prevailing interest rate. If bidder opts to amortize, proof of income (ITR, business permit or Certificate of Employment and Compensation) shall be among the documents for submission on bidding date. Upon approval of the sale, the buyer shall issue twelve (12) PDCs covering the first year of amortization and the same number of checks for each succeeding years. Actual expenses or advances made by SSS for foreclosure and consolidation of title shall be added to purchase price of the former owner or his successor-in-interest.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **AVP MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO**
Chairperson, Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - June 18, 2005)

MUNICIPALITY OF POZORRUBIO

Reference No.: 127543
dated May 27, 2005

SF-GOOD-05

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Pozorrubio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers, manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply of Materials for the Completion of Roofing @ 2nd Floor of Wet Market Section
Location : Public Market Phase I, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan
Brief Description : Materials for the Completion of Roofing @ 2nd Floor of Wet Market Section
Approved Budget for the Contract : P3,205,000.00
Contract Duration : 15 calendar days
Delivery Period : as per Notice to Proceed (to be issued later)

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts May 31, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 14, 2005 (9 AM-5 PM)
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	Starts May 30, 2005
4. Opening of Bids	June 27, 2005 (2 PM)
5. Bid Evaluation	June 28, 2005
6. Post-qualification	July 1, 2005
7. Notice of Award	July 5, 2005

Select one of the following two paragraphs, deleting the other:

For single-stage bidding:

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P16,000.00 to the Municipality of Pozorrubio Cashier.

The Municipality of Pozorrubio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **ENGR. AMERIGO S. GARCIA**
BAC Chairman
BAC Secretariat #075-566-0848

The BAC Secretariat shall prepare the draft IAEB for approved by the BAC at the pre-procurement conference.
(PDI–June 11 & 18, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF SECURITY AGENCIES

The PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO) will be accepting applications for accreditation from licensed private security agencies.

Accreditation Forms shall be available for issuance at the PMO, 4th Floor, Asset Management and Custodianship Division, upon presentation of original PNP / SAGSD license to operate, PADPAO certification and payment of P300.00 non-refundable fee. Both PNP / SAGSD-issued license to operate and PADPAO certification should be unexpired before the submission of the required accreditation forms.

Security agencies that have been accredited by and/or previously engaged by the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) and PMO and/or currently doing business with PMO are not required to participate.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Accreditation Forms and other requirements shall be at 3:00 P.M. of June 30, 2005 at the PMO, 6th Floor Conference Room, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. George Keyser at 818-4625 or Mr. Loreto Santos at 817-6661.

(PDI–June 16, 17 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines

Supreme Court

Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidder to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT : Office supplies for lower courts
(NCJR and Provinces)

ITEM FOR BIDDING	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Office supplies for the lower courts (NCJR)	P 2,926,515.47	Continuing Appropriation
Office supplies for the lower courts (Provinces)	P 15,765,859.32	Continuing Appropriation
TOTAL	P 18,692,374.79	

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:

NCJR – Twenty Five (25) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)
Provinces – Sixty (60) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
The pre-bid conference shall be on **06 July 2005, Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.** at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **13 July 2005, Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.**, at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

III. **SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS**
Bids of eligible bidders must be submitted on **20 July 2005, Wednesday** and will be opened at **2:00 P.M.** in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the CoB-Secretariat c/o Ms. Norma O. Josue, Property Division, 4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall Building (Tel. No. 5266401), after payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).**

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

15 June 2005.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI–June 18 & 25, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **National Food Authority**, Announcement of Bidding published in this paper **June 16, 2005;**

1st paragraph... appropriated budget from corporate resources should be **P1.65B** instead of P 29.44M

2nd paragraph... original documents for payment and on the basis of **mandatory** counter trade and/or performed on best effort.

3rd paragraph... volume for Private Supplier should have been **25,000 metric tons** not 30,000

Our apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Virginia Urian	#96-B Talayan St., SFDM, Q.C.	Romeo Abergas SS # 03-1215565-6	January 13, 2004
2) Carmen Teves	Sta. Mesa, Manila	Helen E. Carig SS # 33-0945695-4	November 15, 2004
3) Cesar Caspillan	Unknown	Glezar Caspillan SS # 33-4627798-9	September 1, 2003
4) Angelina Reyes Casas Adoracion Tudlak Casas	#625 Baltazar St., Tondo, Manila	Alejo A. Casas SS # 03-2874887-9	January 31, 2005
5) Carmelita Cayanan	Sucat, Muntinlupa	Abad B. Cayanan SS # 03-0692611-8	December 23, 2004
6) Lauriana Recodig	Unknown	Gregorio R. Cerillo, Jr. SS # 05-0161847-0	June 6, 2004
7) Debbie Pilones Clarise Anne	Balsigan Rd., Baguio City	Jessie Cirilo SS # 03-5456294-8	July 21, 2001
8) Nenita Pedenal Cuevas	12 Ave. 5th St. Balintawak, Caloocan	Hermogenes L. Cuevas SS # 03-0005572-6	October 26, 2001
9) Jonilda V. Sta. Ana	Unknown	Edelberto E. David SS # 02-1021511-9	March 9, 2005
10) Damasa Dumagat	Unknown	Demetrio A. Dumagat SS # 03-2015849-5	November 21, 2002
11) Nena Gallon Dumagat	Talisayan, Misamis Oriental	Gemelo G. Dumagat SS # 09-0395032-5	January 17, 2005
12) Antonio Espejo, Jr. Mark Anthony Sarol Precious Espejo	Gen. Trias, Cavite	Antonio M. Espejo SS # 03-1222374-0	November 2, 2004
13) Felicidad Oliva	Cubao, Quezon City	Gamaliel P. Fraglo SS # 03-0205942-9	February 5, 2005
14) Lily Gubat	177 G.M. Basa St., Calumpang, Marikina Rizal	Rolando M. Galdonez SS # 03-2811246-3	April 10, 2005
15) Lydia Nacua, Jinky, Analyn & Joseph	Marbel, Matalam, North Cotabato	Jesus Duka Garcia SS # 09-0431652-6	April 12, 2004
16) Anacita Insigne	Unknown	Pedro E. Insigne SS # 03-1489573-6	April 9, 2005
17) Falmae and Anna Lou Jabonete	Unknown	Jessie Jabonete SS # 07-0214120-9	October 19, 2001
18) Mr. Macasleb Josefino De Ocampo	Unknown	Josefina Macasieb SS # 03-2638255-4	March 7, 1998
19) Julieta Medina	Sta. Maria, Bauan, Batangas	Isagani Medina SS # 03-2267913-5	May 22, 2000
20) Deadema L. Obedoza	Villasis, Pangasinan	Virgilio Obedoza SS # 03-1589533-7	December 1, 2000
21) Juanito T. Olaciman	Unknown	Edgar Olaciman SS # 01-1097688-8	June 21, 2004
22) Loreta Aulincio	Unknown	Francisco G. Ocumen SS # 03-2169208-7	March 4, 2004
23) Jennifer Bartolome	Unknown	Carlos Pacleb, Jr. SS # 33-2842026-3	May 6, 2004
24) Teodoro Soson II	Unknown	Teodoro Rivadeo SS # 33-5029563-0	February 8, 2005
25) Ronald Sargento	Dampay Pob., Alaminos City, Pangasinan	Rustiniano C. Romero SS # 03-1576374-4	March 26, 2005
26) Alberto Roque	Unknown	Josefina Roque SS # 04-0388237-1	November 14, 2002
27) Vergelio Tarrayo Tomas Tarrayo Evilen Tarrayo Gloria Aniban	Unknown	Felipe P. Sabordo SS # 06-0427423-2	August 22, 2001
28) Ester Capangpangan Ma. Venus & Ma. Loma	638-B Bangoy St., Davao City	Jose Trajano SS # 09-0152940-2	March 16, 1975

–Nothing follows–

(PDI - June 18, 2005)

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he matters.

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sun
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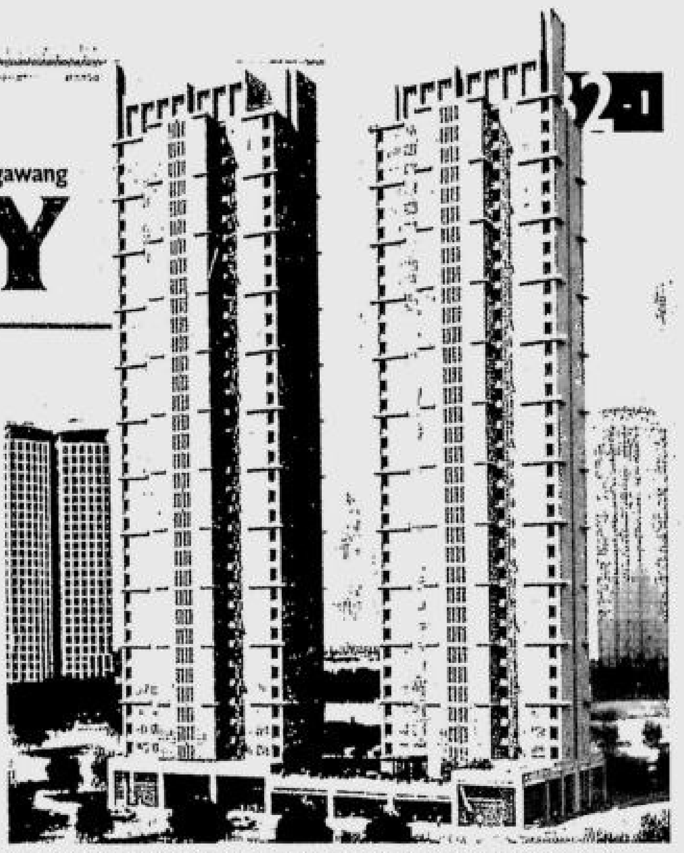
SUN CELL FATHER'S DAY AD 29.75X52CM / PDI

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY



THE 37-STORY, twin tower condominium will be the first in the country to offer its units fully fitted and completely furnished.

Unique concept in luxury high-rise living

By Charles E. Buban

THERE is so much excitement surrounding South of Market (SoMa) development, the latest project of Century Properties.

With an increasing number of people wanting to sample the best that city living has to offer, SoMa has literally risen to the challenge by offering them a unique concept in luxury high-rise living.

The 37-story, twin-tower residential condominium that will soon rise at the corner of 26th and 11th streets of Bonifacio Global City is being touted as the first in the country to turn over its units fully fitted and completely furnished to its owners.

"There is definitely a desire to be part of this distinctive project. In fact, the first tower, launched just eight months ago, is now practically sold out. Sale of the second tower shows

UNIQUE/ B2-2

The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Green architecture and the Filipino house

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

FILIPINOS are known to be a very romantic people. Many people today long for the elegant and gracious manner that characterized our grandparents' way of life. Eventually, this nostalgia turns to the architecture of the past and how it has influenced people's lives.

People reminisce about the grand features of the distinctive ancestral "bahay na bato." The grand staircase, the big, lofty *sala* (living room) and *comedor* (dining room), the high-ceilinged bedrooms, the tall panel doors, the endless capiz windows: typical features of a unique architectural style that can be found only in the Philippines.

An interesting question to ask is what is special about the *bahay na bato*?

The 'bahay na bato'

The *bahay na bato*, directly influenced by the lowly and simple *bahay kubo*, was designed to blend with the local climate. High ceilings meant no claustrophobic feeling and air flow was unimpeded. It also gave artisans and craftsmen a chance to put decorative elements in the ceiling.

Sliding windows with translucent, natural glazing made of capiz shells were a very distinctive feature of these houses. Despite their dainty and intricate design, these windows could withstand strong winds and rain, especially when combined with *persianas* or sliding wooden louvered storm windows.

Ventanillas, or openings with wooden balusters called *barandillas* below these windows provided continuous natural ventilation for most of the rooms. For the upper part of room partitions a decorative transom was normally placed to ensure the flow of fresh air into the rooms.

Wide wooden floor planks that seemed to stretch endlessly, were a source of pride for the *bahay na bato* owner. These were after all, an impressive feature of the house especially when polished well.

Water conservation was also an integral part of the ancestral house. Rainwater was collected in underground cisterns to serve the needs of a large household.

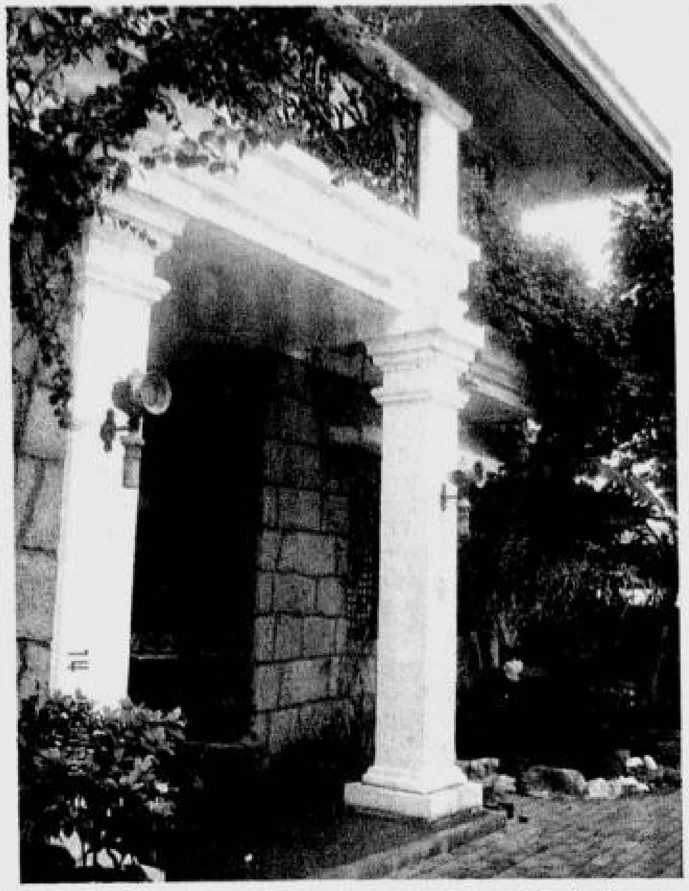
These are some of the features of the typical *bahay na bato*, features that were designed not only to look nice but also to help improve the natural conditions of the rooms. In short, the *bahay na bato* exemplified green architecture principles.

Today's houses

Today, many houses are designed to look "pretty," with a lot of borrowed architectural ornaments and embellishments that have no relation at all to our culture, and much less our climate. Many houses look like they were cut out of travel brochures of western countries. Attics, dormer windows, cute little bay windows: with these trends, one wouldn't be surprised to soon see chimneys and fireplaces!

On the other hand, there's really nothing wrong with incorporating fancy accents in one's home. What is wrong is that these features are added at the expense of comfort and function.

For example, in cold countries, the roof pitch is designed with a steep slope to prevent the pileup of heavy snow. Naturally, this design creates a livable space called the attic. This room is comfortable even at the height of winter because of the heat buildup from the roof, which keeps the warmth in. The attic is excellent for the needs of the western countries.



THE MARELLA residence is an example of a house with a timeless character fusing the modern and the traditional Filipino house. It includes traditional design elements such as the main porch and balcony with classical columns and grilles combined with contemporary materials that are easy to maintain yet look old. (The residence was designed by the author.)

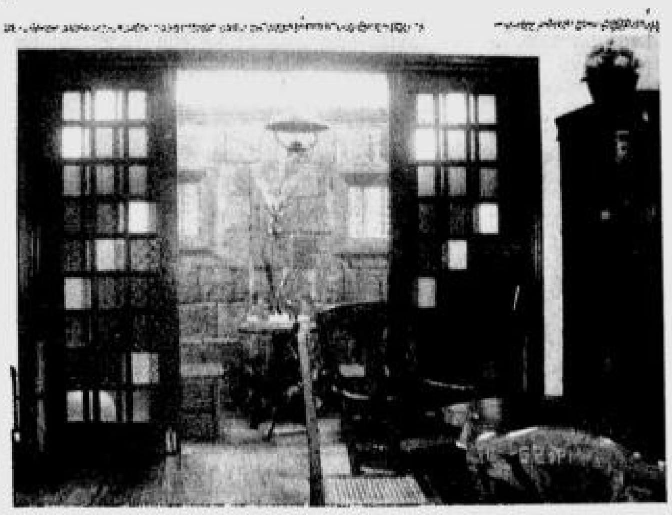
Impractical

However, for a hot and humid country like ours, the attic is very impractical. In spite of this, we see many houses with attics. They are normally designed with small windows that hardly help in letting fresh air flow through. To offset the heat, powerful air-conditioners are usually installed.

The ceiling height of many of today's modern homes is usually limited to a fixed height for no particular reason but simply because of construction materials that have standard dimensions.

In many parts of Asia, one typical feature of many homes is the roof overhang or *volada*. It is very effective in preventing overexposure to the sun's rays. By installing the *volada* above windows and doorways, thermal comfort in rooms is enhanced. It also serves as protection from harsh tropical storms.

Our modern homes seem to have forgotten or overlooked this simple yet effective design technique to improve the lives of people. Windows and doorways that have no *volada* usually suffer from leaks during a storm. Many people end up lining windows and doorsills with rags, sponges and all things absorbent to prevent messing up the interiors.



THE LIVING room with its wooden sliding doors extends into a cozy nook at the side of the house. The side courtyard is a good source of natural ventilation and reinterprets the wide openings common in the traditional Filipino house.

Without the reliable *volada*, upholstery and drapes are overexposed to the sun causing them to fade. The finishes of furniture around the openings, whether painted or varnished, are damaged. And of course, people don't want to stay in areas that are uncomfortably hot.

And yet, we continue to build houses that are sleek and modern without the *volada*. Some people say it's nicer without them because they clutter the design especially in the façade. But is esthetic appeal more important than practicality and comfort?

There are many more examples you can probably cite, but the message is simple. We have to stop copying design concepts that do not apply to our living and weather conditions.

Challenge

Do these all mean that we have to start building the *bahay na bato* again?

The *bahay na bato* was the most suitable structure for its time and its occupants. It was designed for large households, a communal type of lifestyle. This is in direct contrast to our lifestyle today where individualism and privacy is emphasized.

Perhaps the challenge is for us to look back and appreciate what our grandparents built and how they lived in their houses.

The next step is to analyze how we can transform and reinterpret the traditional ways by fusing the modern and the vernacular design trends. There are many ways to do this and several of our Asian neighbors are successfully doing so.

Finally, the Filipino house should incorporate green architecture principles to ensure that the occupants' needs are given priority over esthetic considerations. These principles emphasize the use of daylight, natural ventilation and natural materials, among others.

(The author is the newly elected chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)

ONE Legazpi Park

ONE LEGAZPI PARK

Countdown to premier condo living begins

AYALA Land condominium project One Legazpi Park unit owners will be pleased to know that their new homes will be ready for occupancy in just a few months. As promised, these superbly crafted units will finally be turned over to them beginning in January, even earlier than several competitors who launched before One Legazpi Park did in March 2002.

The multiawarded condominium project has garnered accolades such as the 4-Million Safe Man-Hours Award from its general contractor EEI Corp. last December and the Safest and Best Project in Makati City Award by the Makati City Hall two years back. These are distinct testaments to the meticulous building process and dedication to safety of the numerous employees and workers involved in the project's construction.

One Legazpi Park unit owners are doubly assured that strict safety requirements reflect speedy delivery, given the fact that the endeavor was able to avoid any costly sidetracks or delays.

Unrivaled attention

Ayala Land's commitment to its buyers and high standards for quality control ensure that each unit in One Legazpi Park will go through at least three layers of thorough inspection and refinement prior to its turnover to the buyer, an unrivaled attention to detail and quality that one will be hard-pressed to expect from the competition.

It is only a few months until new homeowners will be able to personalize their treasured abodes. Not only can they expect fine finishes and workmanship upon their move, but the many amenities of the building will also be welcoming them on a daily basis.

They are also guaranteed peace of mind, as Ayala Land's proven after-sales service and exceptional property management by Ayala Property Management Corp. will provide continued assistance long after they have moved in. The countdown has definitely begun, as experiencing the utmost in fine urban living is only a few short months away.

For further inquiries about One Legazpi Park and other residential projects, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Dasmariñas the next urban city

A NEW city with well-planned commercial and residential enclaves is on the rise in the industrial province of Cavite as continuous economic expansion and rapid urban development spread toward Metro Manila's neighboring towns.

Just south of Muntinlupa City, local government units (LGUs) and commercial developers are now transforming Dasmariñas town in Cavite into a major urban center complete with modern residential, commercial and industrial facilities for middle-class settlers.

Urbanization

The urbanization of Dasmariñas town forms part of the national government's plan to further develop the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon (Calabarzon) growth corridor in Southern Tagalog, as emphasized in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan of the Arroyo administration.

With decades of incessant economic growth making Metro Manila a highly congested metropolis, industrial activities moved toward the vibrant growth area of Calabarzon, particularly Cavite, which is closest to the country's capital.

Dasmariñas, one of the northern towns of Cavite, has particularly felt the impact of economic development, as the government developed the area to accommodate the growth spillovers of the metropolis.

From its traditional agricultural economy a few decades ago, Dasmariñas has turned into a fast-paced urban center with a population of about 450,000 people. The town now has some of the largest colleges, hospitals, shopping malls, industrial estates, residential subdivisions in Calabarzon and the factory site of the richest multinational corporations in the country today.

The First Cavite Industrial Estate in Dasmariñas is now home to more than 80 Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Malaysian, Singaporean, American, German and Filipino corporations, which employ thousands of residents in the area.

Accessibility

Bounded on the east by Muntinlupa City and other neighboring Cavite towns, Dasmariñas is just 30 kilometers from the capital city of Manila and is accessible from all points and growth centers via a network of concrete national highways and provincial roads.

Dasmariñas is just a 15-minute drive from the posh Ayala-Alabang area via the Daang Hari Road and 10 minutes from the First Cavite Industrial Estate.

In response to the government's call to complete the urban integration of Dasmariñas, One Asia Development Corp., a niche player in the real estate sector, will soon launch a major residential project in the largest barangay of Dasmariñas, which would be an important part of the future modern city.

The new residential project called Westridge Residences is located in Salawag, which covers 2,177 hectares and is the largest among the 73 barangays of Dasmariñas. Urban planners consider Salawag as a most ideal site for a middle-class residential enclave.

Once completed, Westridge Residences would be in close proximity to commercial centers in Metro Manila and other parts of Calabarzon. Salawag is only 15 minutes from the Alabang Town Center and Festival Mall and an hour from Makati CBD.

Unique concept in luxury high-rise living

From page B 2-1

similar trend," reveals Century Properties managing director and COO John Victor Antonio.

Clamoring for the high life

Young professionals and start-up families are not just those who are clamoring for SoMa's high life.

Antonio reveals that a lot of their buyers are successful Filipinos working or residing overseas who want to come home to a place where they will immediately experience luxury, enjoy amenities and carefree living.

"They don't want to experience the hassles of moving in like worrying about what interior decoration to adopt or what pieces of furniture and appliances to buy," explains Antonio.

He reveals that each of SoMa unit is furnished with air-conditioning per bedroom, kitchen set (including kitchen cabinets, refrigerator, cooktop, oven, cooking range, microwave), living room set (including sofa, coffee table and chairs, 21" Sony flatscreen TV, DVD player, entertainment sound system), dining room set (including a dining table and chairs) and bed frames in each bedroom.

Best brands

"We have chosen the best brands to complement our units. However, if the buyer opts to spend more for his or her unit, we can always upgrade the furniture or the appliances," assures Antonio.

He adds that complementing this gracious lifestyle, SoMa even included facilities and amenities like concierge and doorman services, a THX theater movie room, function rooms, owners' lounge, a game room, a health and fitness center and a swimming pool.

SoMa unit buyers also become automatic members of the Club Soho, an exclusive privilege club that allows its members to enjoy the facilities of other Soho properties in Metro Manila, namely, Bel Air Soho and Soho Central, as well as other perks and privileges from partner establishments.

LIVING area of a 2-bedroom unit

Antonio explains that while SoMa units are being offered at 30 percent more in terms of unit value (because of the fittings and furnishings), the buyer would be getting it at a cost 30 percent lower than comparable buildings around the Global City.

"SoMa's unit prices start at P2.9 million and come with very attractive payment terms. Luxury suites are offered in one- to four-bedroom configurations ranging from 39 to 230 square meters, using a low density per floor plan," says Antonio.

Availing of a SoMa unit allows one to get the most value out of his or her hard-earned money. Under SoMa's co-development approach, the resident becomes co-investor, instead of merely buyers.

"A proven concept in the United States and Europe, this approach allows our buyers to save approximately 12 percent on value-added tax, document stamps and transfer taxes," reveals Antonio.

Carefully planned

According to Antonio, SoMa has been carefully planned with condominium users in mind—all units are corner units with balconies, allowing for unobstructed, spectacular views from all bedrooms and living areas.

He says SoMa's high-rise living represents an entirely different way of life.

Says Antonio: "The lifestyle is a celebration of luxuriant surroundings, spectacular views, peace of mind, and convenience. At SoMa, our resident will find that one doesn't need a house to enjoy a home."

SoMa's development came after the success of a major Century Properties' project, the Essensa East Forbes, which was hailed by Asiaweek magazine as the most prestigious residential condominium development in the Philippines.

Antonio quips, "After exceeding expectations with Essensa East Forbes, we challenged ourselves to once again come up with a fresh perspective, hence the SoMa."

Rockwell handover experts ready for Manansala turnover

WITH A LITTLE over 30 days to go, Rockwell Land Corp. is ready to turn over units to the new residents of The Manansala.

At the start of 2005, letters were sent out to overseas buyers informing them that The Manansala is in the final stages of completion.

"The response was overwhelming. As early as January, we have started receiving inquiries and requests for earlier turnover schedules," shared Val Soliven, AVP for sales and marketing.

Six floors will be handed over every month starting July. And Rockwell is doing everything to ensure a smooth transition for its new residents. In fact, a team comprised of 30 handover experts has been tasked to do just that.

2 main tasks

The responsibility is divided into two main tasks: facilities quality check and actual handover. Even before the project is turned over to the Facilities and Handover team, the construction manager scrutinizes the contractor's work and determines whether it is ready for acceptance and transfer.

Once the units pass inspection, the punch-list coordinator accepts the units from the construction manager in behalf of Rockwell. Then a handover expert makes a final assess-

ROCKWELL/ B2-4

Eurovek PIPING SYSTEMS
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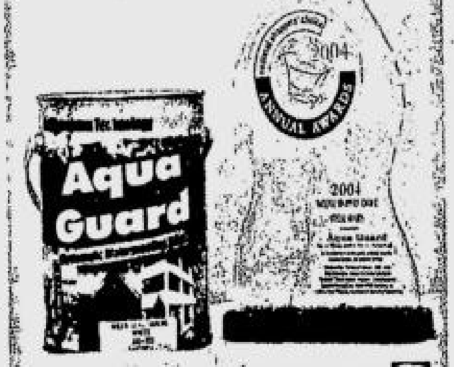
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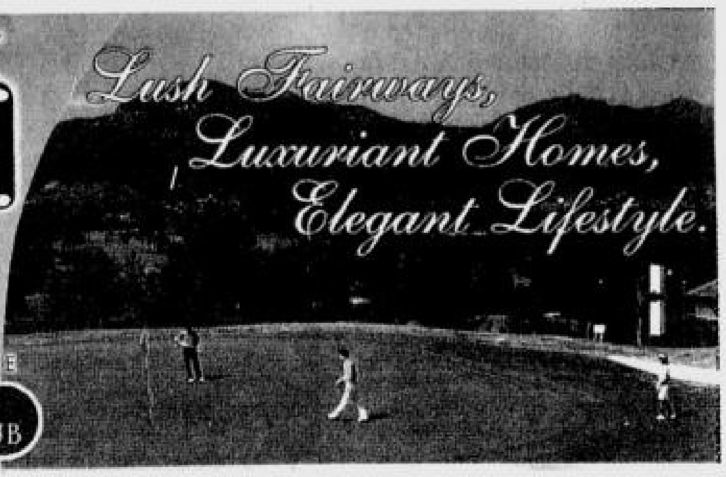
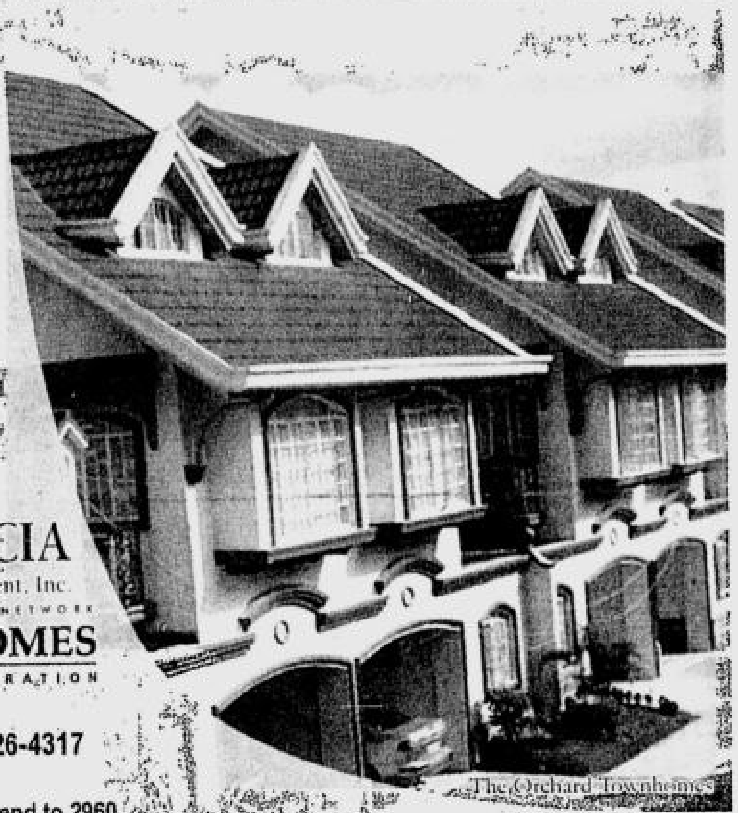
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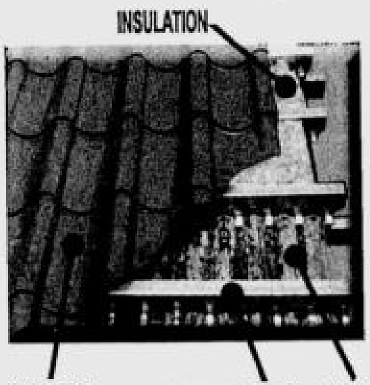

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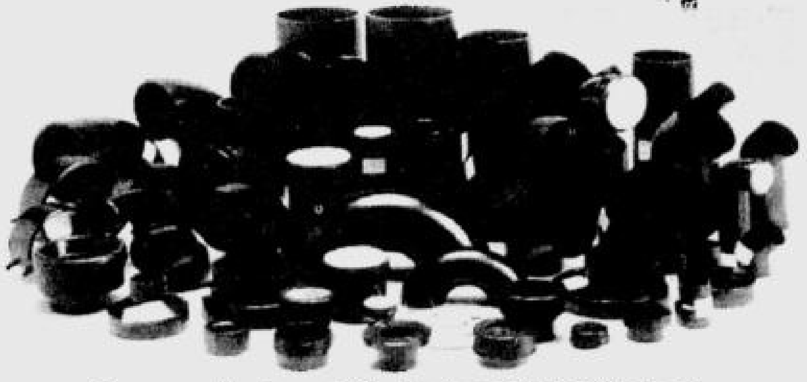
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Rethinking a small space

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz

A SMALL space requires big thinking. Lately I've been given more and more assignments to design a less and lesser area. A person's creativity thrives and is quite challenged in the limitations posed by his environment. A big part of the struggle for some is not really the lack of room but a confining mindset that has been used to formulas.

I've discovered five limitations, what I call the Five Don'ts, which we must let go so our creative juices can flow in our designs.

1 **Do not use tiny furniture.** In an intimate space where relaxation is the main theme, go for compactness and scale. Get over your fear of its littleness. Concentrate more on filling every corner with a comfy seating, a nook so inviting to laze around. Continuity is a good element here. Divert your senses by the intimacy the whole setting creates and you will produce something very livable.

2 **Do not compensate by using a lot of contrasting colors.** Be discreet in your choices. A simple monochromatic palette will bring wonders in expanding it. Seek to limit your accent hues in small doses, say in painting or your throw pillows.

3 **Do not overaccessorize.** Restrain your urge to decorate. Proportion is very crucial in your use of wall décor and table settings. Go more for few-stuff but big-scaled functional art pieces. In a small space, less is always more.

4 **Do not buy anything without considering the essentials:** Is it the right size? How flexible is it? "What other use can this table serve?" On sturdiness, "Can this piece withstand the wear and tear of constant use?"

5 **Do not underestimate lighting.** I have never been more satisfied with a whole ensemble without the subtle touch of lighting. It does not only give more depth to a box of a room, but it gives a whole character to the room. Be creative, though, in what kind of light to use and where to put it.

When your mind has been cleared of all these misconceptions for designing a small space, it is set to soar for new, greater ideas.

MEGAWORLD'S BELLAGIO I ON SCHEDULE
The Bellagio I, a 38-story luxury residential project of property giant Megaworld Corp. and Bonifacio West Development Corp. at the Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City, is 11.9 percent complete. Excavation and side protection works are finished, structural works are progressing past the 25 percent mark and concreting has reached the ninth level. Bordering the Manila Golf and Country Club, Bellagio I houses more than 300 executive studios to four-bedroom suites in two separate wings. At the podium deck are deluxe amenities such as a swimming pool complex featuring a horizon-edged pool with in-water lounge, children's pool, paved sunbathing deck and changing rooms, a children's playground, gym, male and female saunas, day-care center and spacious function rooms. Slated for completion by the third quarter of 2008, Bellagio I will be Megaworld's seventh residential condominium tower to rise in the Global City.

New face of luxury at Eastwood City

FROM LUXURY residences and high-tech offices to retail shops and entertainment centers, property giant Megaworld Corp. has shaped Eastwood City into an urban center that is both warm and welcoming.

Today, Megaworld makes Eastwood City even more inviting as it introduces The Eastwood Park Hotel and Residential Suites, its newest addition to the cityscape's growing residential block.

Lavish comforts

By combining gracious hotel accommodations seamlessly with the lavish comforts of a condominium home, The Eastwood Park unveils a new facet to Eastwood City's unique brand of hospitality.

"The Eastwood Park is a home that not only responds to your needs but also introduces you to a red carpet lifestyle," says John Natividad, vice president for marketing of Megaworld marketing arm Eastwood Property Holdings Inc.

The 38-story Eastwood Park, which towers above a mall complex, showcases condominium units ranging from executive studios to two-bedroom suites. From home, residents can dial the hotel's front desk and have access to hotel services such as concierge assistance, housekeeping and room service.

Play amenities

An impressive array of play amenities abound at the fifth level such as a swimming pool, pool deck, covered lanai and children's playground. And with the ease of an elevator ride, homeowners can treat themselves to specialty shops, gaming arcades, cafés and cinemas at a four-story mall.

And for an investment that starts as low as US$300 a month, homeowners can lay claim to a pampered lifestyle in no time at all.

Rockwell. . .

From page B2-3

ment prior to actual turnover.

Willie Orille, Facilities and Handover senior manager, has been with Rockwell for 8 years as project manager and estate manager. This time around, he is responsible for certifying that all mechanical, electrical and plumbing works and fire support systems are operational in The Manansala common areas including the grand lobby, the function rooms and the elevator bays.

World-class vertical dev't

"Our mission is to deliver the Rockwell promise. We are here to ensure that The Manansala is indeed a world-class vertical development that is ready to house its new residents," Orille related.

He added, "Our handover assistants are currently undergoing rigid training in preparation for the July 2005 turnover."

Marga Reyes, Handover manager, on the other hand, witnessed Rockwell's development for over half a decade. She was building manager at the time Rockwell inaugurated the West residential block.

Currently, Marga handles all the Manansala residential units and ensures that these are architecturally complete and all installations are ready for functional use.

"We are prepping our teams for the task on hand. Each team is responsible for handing over units on one floor every month for six months," said Marga.

"The handover team is meticulous and thorough. We don't rush our clients into accepting the unit without going through every nook and cranny with them. That being said, handover assistants are encouraged to each entertain a maximum of two clients per day," added Marga.

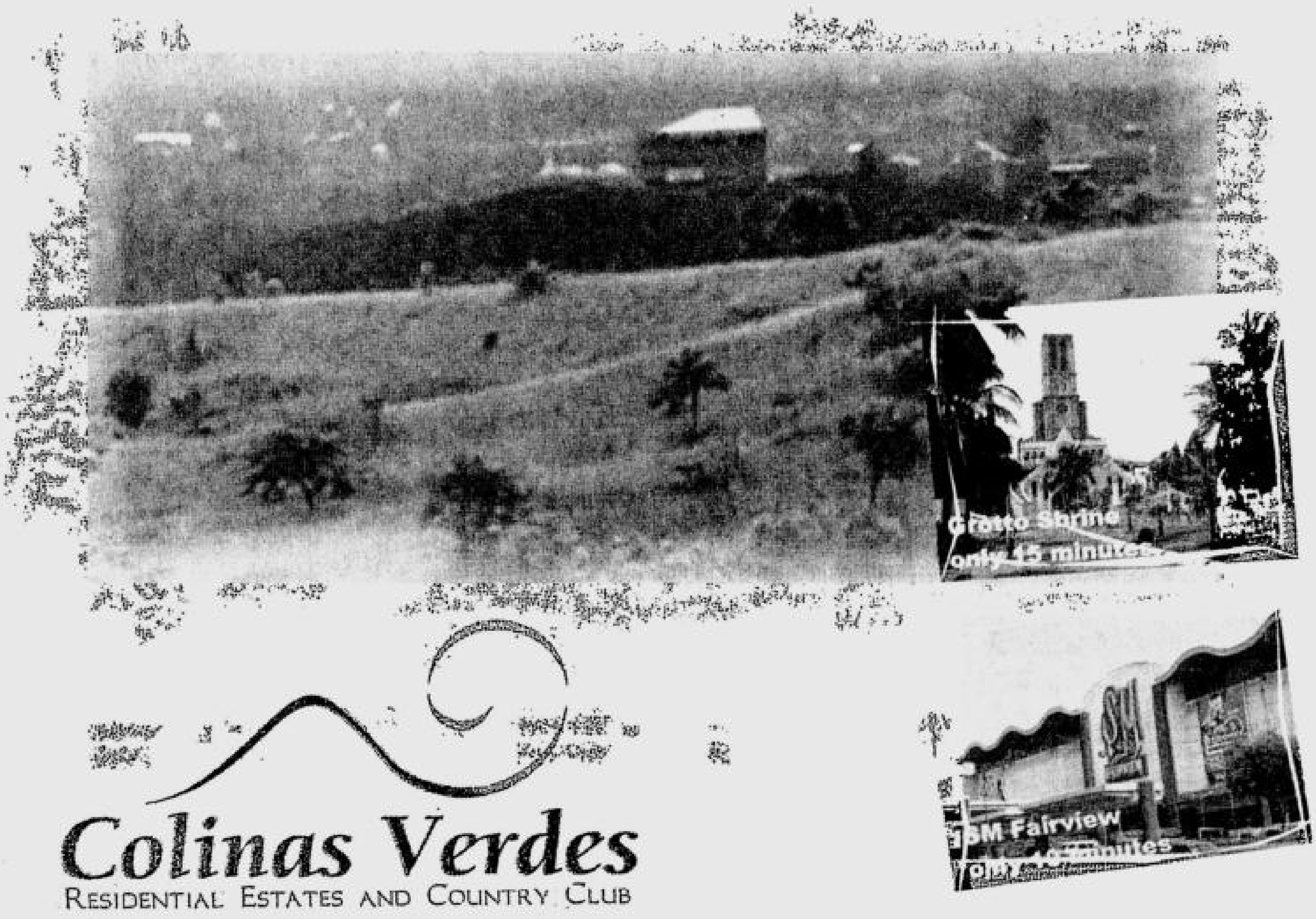
On their toes

The Handover team's collective experience and learning from past projects has taught them to be on their toes. "Something is always bound to happen. Expect it. Assess it. Manage it. Resolve it. That's what we have been telling our team members," said Marga.

"Rockwell's commitment to provide only the best to their clients is evident in the management's decision to beef up its manpower in preparation for the handover team," narrated Willie.

"We have covered all the bases and we're ready come July 2005," said Willie.

The Manansala is a twin-tower vertical development on the East block of Rockwell Center. It houses over 600 residential units and boasts of world-class amenities that include a gym and fitness center, swimming and wading pool, badminton courts, retail outlets, a multipurpose function room, children's playground, and a roof deck patio for parties and functions.



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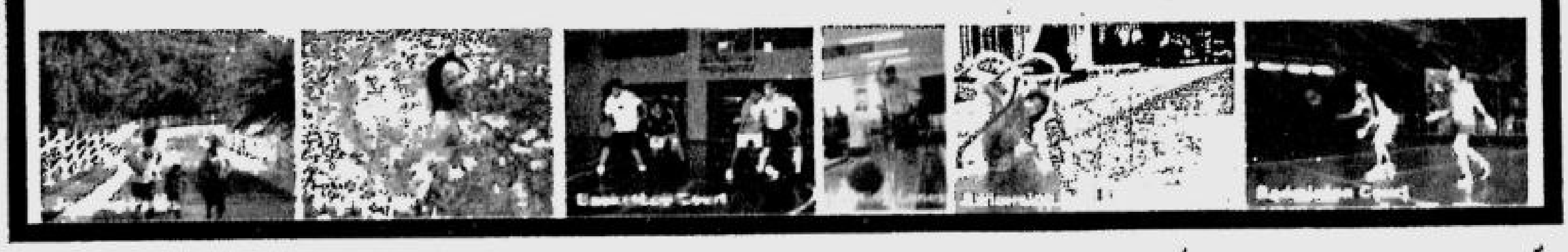


PROPERTY

Longest steel arch bridge

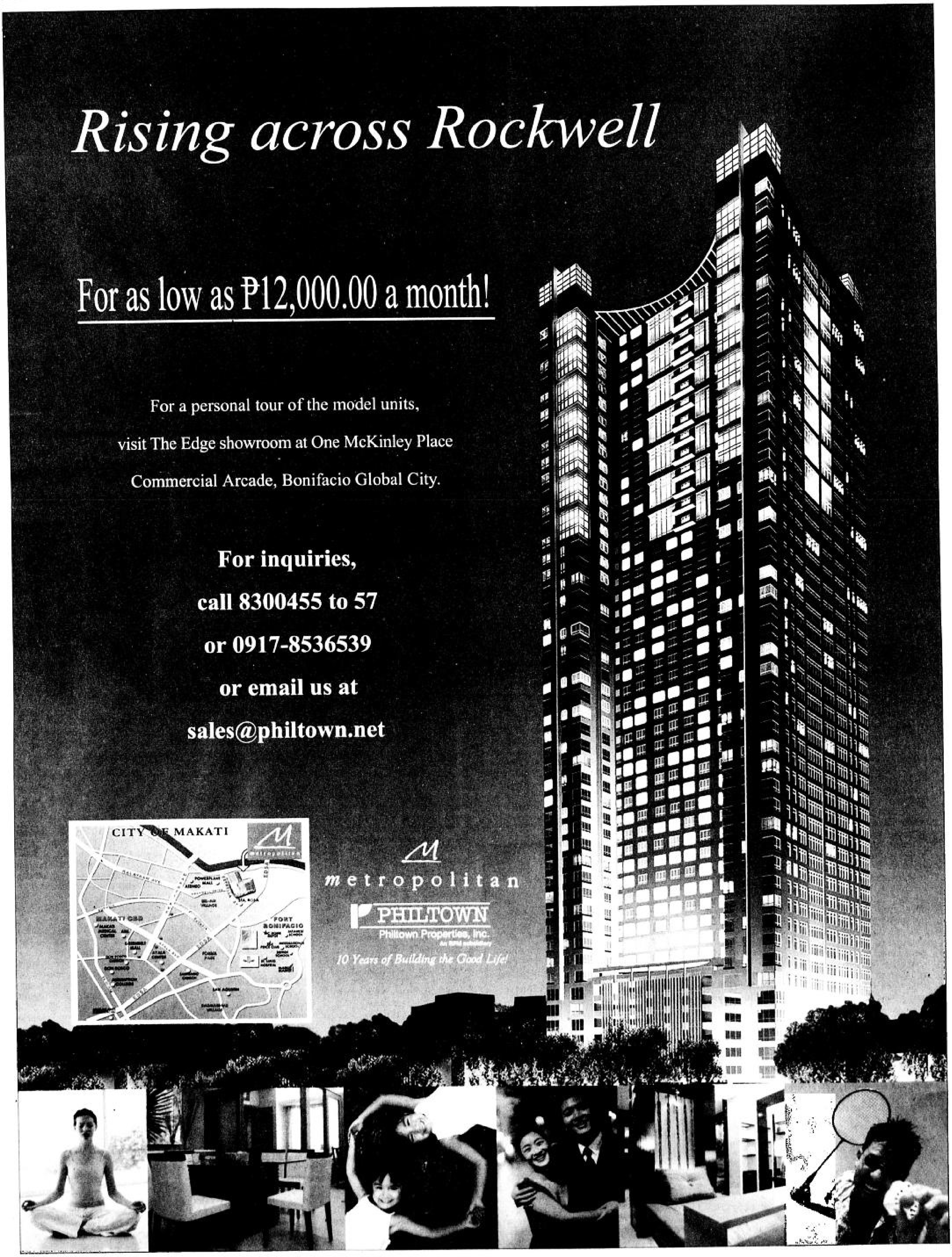
AMAZING STRUCTURES

WITH THE TARGET of addressing the "local expansion requirement of getting traffic across the river," Shanghai Construction Group built what is now a record holder in the the Guinness World Records, the Lupu Bridge.

Spanning across the Huangpu River in Shanghai, China, the bridge connects the Shanghai north-south expressway and said to have improved the traffic condition between Pudong International Airport and the city center. The world's longest steel arch bridge has a main arch span of 550 meters (1,804 feet), a height of 100 meters, with six lanes and two-meter pedestrian walkways on each side. Shanghai Lupu Bridge Investment Development Co., which will own and manage the bridge for 25 years, hopes to cover building costs which reportedly amounted to 2.5 billion yuan by charging sightseeing visitors and renting out space on the bridge for advertisements. The bridge, however, is free of charge for traffic.

The bridge took three years to build and was opened for public use on June 28, 2003, with Chinese basketball player Yao Ming leading about 1,000 runners on the bridge as part of the opening ceremony. It is 32 m (104 ft) longer than the New River Gorge Bridge, the previous record holder.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



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Brittany communities set trends with design innovations

MAXIMIZING privacy and sense of space, the Victorianne Quadrilles are clusters of four residences, each with its own view and separate entrance.

SITED within the neo-Victorian-inspired community of Victorianne, the Duettos are duplex units configured back to back rather than side to side.

HOMEOWNERS with the means to live in an upscale environment want homes and communities that provide not only comfort and security, but also reflect their cultivated tastes and knowledge of the world. They appreciate designs in their homes that express beauty as they have experienced it, especially while visiting the best destinations abroad.

Given this insight, real estate maverick Brittany Corp. has blazed new trails by providing not only masterplanning and the other standard features expected of high-end developments, but by building communities inspired by themes drawn from the most attractive destinations all over the globe. Thus, it is no accident that Brittany offers distinctive "Homes of the World" for discerning, prospective residents.

Design innovations

A key aspect in the development of these communities is Brittany's application of design innovations that are crucial in creating lifescapes—structural, psychological and emotional dimensions for residential environments that uplift residents' quality of life to levels which would not be otherwise possible to experience in the metropolis.

A look at some of Brittany's design innovations:

- **Victorianne Duettos and Quadrilles.** The Victorianne neighborhood of Brittany Bay, a neo-Victorian-inspired community and the company's flagship project, boasts uniquely laid-out Duettos and Quadrilles, a never-before-seen interpretation of the townhouse design that maximizes privacy and sense of space. Duettos are duplex units configured back-to-back rather than side-to-side, with each unit surrounded by open space.

Quadrilles are clusters of four residences, each with its own view and separate entrance, and each sharing two walls out of four to enhance private space. Victorianne homes, evocative of the world-famous "Painted Ladies" on Postcard Row in San Francisco's Alamo Square, have neo-Victorian influences that include flat canopies, bay windows, roof shingles, front steps and eaves with brackets.

- **Swiss Quadrilles.** Perched on a picturesque site in Tagaytay, CrossWinds is a Swiss-inspired enclave that highlights the "great room concept," an innovative approach that frees up maximum land space for the benefit of the entire community, while creating visual appeal, avoiding structural clutter and enhancing a sense of expansiveness amid rolling, picturesque terrain.

Thus, homes are not limited to single-detached homes and lots. CrossWinds offers Swiss Quadrilles, clusters of four residences with striking esthetics and optimum privacy, engendering a sense of seclusion appropriate for a weekend retreat.

Elegant masterpiece

- **Courtyards of Portofino.** Portofino, Brittany's elegant, Italian masterpiece in Alabang, showcases the singular "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept in the Courtyards of Portofino. Under this design concept exclusive to Brittany, each courtyard home is built around its own private courtyard, while being part of an attractive cluster of homes surrounding a central, landscaped courtyard.

The result is a play of open space and light that brings the outdoors, indoors in each home and courtyard cluster. The "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept is complemented by Italian-inspired architectural details such as porticos, rounded balconies, high ceilings, cupolas, arches and stone claddings.

- **Wide lot concept.** Still another Brittany innovation is the "wide lot concept" for single-detached homes, applied in the La Posada neighborhood of Brittany Bay and the New, Wide Enclave of Portofino. The concept results in homes with wide frontage that enhances streetscape, the esthetics of architectural design, and the sense of space within residences. Due to the wide frontage, the physical proportions of homes are maximized visually, with streetscapes made more appealing.

Other advantages of the "wide lot concept" include a large backyard, architectural features such as more windows for natural light and ventilation, and porches that enhance a sense of comfort and community. In the next five years, homes built with the "wide lot concept" are expected to have higher resale value.

Brittany homes and communities, with their striking themes and design innovations, are meant to be visited to be truly appreciated. Continuously innovating new developments with its unique concepts and designs, Brittany is indeed a maverick in the local property sector. The first step is to ask about previews by calling 850-2868 and 850-6986 or visiting www.brittany.com.ph.

HIGHLIGHTING the "great room concept" to avoid structural clutter, the Swiss Quadrilles at CrossWinds are clusters of four residences with striking esthetics and optimum privacy.

BRITTANY'S Italian masterpiece, the Courtyards of Portofino features the "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept to bring the outdoors, indoors.

Sentricon or a house of steel?

THERE'S a revolutionary way to end termite worries and it doesn't involve tearing down your home and building one that's made of steel.

When businessman and former real estate practitioner Richard Somes built his house in 1995, he had it termite-proofed. "I made the proper treatments before I built the house: I had the soil treated and performed chemical applications on the wood," he recalls.

A couple of years after he built the house, the first signs of infestation occurred. The infestation in his home got to the point where he was doing termite treatments twice a month. At that time, some five years back, the leading anti-termite chemical sold for P700 per gallon. At a monthly consumption of two gallons, he was spending P1,400 to flush out termites from his home, which proved to be an exercise in futility.

Pest control practitioners and homeowners usually rely on chemical barriers and spray treatments to ward off subterranean termites. But natural conditions like the hot and humid climate does not allow long-term residual effects on the soil.

Factors like moisture, soil movement and microbial activities break the barrier and degrade the chemicals so that after only two or three years of conventional termiticide treatment, the pests would have scattered to other areas and started new colonies, all set to make a meal out of your home.

Around this time, Somes was receiving for his Australian-based architect brother correspondence from the United Architects of the Philippines. When he browsed through one of those direct mailers, there was information about a new system called Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System but he didn't give it thorough consideration.

Then in 2000, when infestation in his place got worse, he stumbled upon the Sentricon brochure that he had browsed previously. Unwilling to endure the infestation any longer, he decided to give the new system a try.

Call for help

Entom Pest Control & General Services Corp., authorized operator of Sentricon system and owned by Elmer Baradas (850-0276, 809-1685 or 842-4724), heeded Somes' call for help. "Their explanation of the baiting system is logical. Although skeptical at first, I thought it made sense," says Somes. "Well-known termiticide brands, those that have been in use for a long time proved useless after a while. All I wanted was some sort of assurance—is it gonna work?"

Termite colony elimination

On the side of Entom, the staff was confident it could solve the problem. When the revolutionary technology of Sentricon became available in the Philippines, it produced in pest control operators the confidence of being able to guarantee home and property owners complete termite colony elimination in a few months.

Although the cost surprised Somes at the outset, the businessman-real estate guy in him justified the cost. He gave it the benefit of the doubt and tried the system.

Sentricon eliminates entire colonies by getting termites where they live, right in the places that people can't hope to reach. It was hailed internationally as the biggest thing to happen in the pest control industry in the last 50 years. Today, Sentricon protects the White House, the Statue of Liberty, some Philippine historical sites, other important landmarks, and many homes and properties.

Within six weeks, infestation in Somes' home ceased. The treatment had been a success that he decided to have Sentricon installed in his other infested house in the same subdivision.

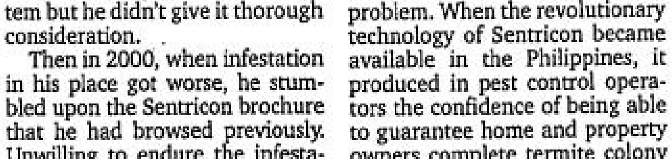
To enable more people to give their properties the best protection possible, Entom offers credit card payment through Bank of the Philippine Island and MasterCard with installments of three, six, nine, 12 months or up to two years.

Construction trend

Somes, who currently manages Oz Fitness Center on Holy Spirit Drive near Ever Commonwealth, explains that most houses these days are of mixed construction, meaning they are made of concrete and wood. He observes that the trend is going in the direction of steel and concrete, quite possibly due to people's unpleasant experience with termites.

In the last five years, builders have been making modifications, finding other materials to use for building houses. But Somes says you can't totally remove wood in construction, and you will always have items in the house that are edible to termites.

For Somes, the choice was clear: "For a person who has gone through the terrible experience of dealing with termite infestation, Sentricon is worth the price. It is a blessing!"



HOMEOWNER Richard Somes is flanked by Entom marketing assistants Gilbert Umali, left, and Allo Dizon.

Walls give way to gardens in this neighborly community

SONERA, the latest phase of Ayala Southvale Village in Southern Metro Manila, is likely to be one of the most pleasant communities in the country.

In contrast to most other upscale residential areas, walls fronting homes in this 20-hectare enclave will give way to wide, fenceless frontages to showcase landscaping.

Garden community

Warm views of gardens, greenery and homes—not the high fences and parapets of most exclusive villages—will greet the visitor as he drives around Sonera.

Adjacent to the successful Ayala Alabang area, this newest development of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) will definitely be a garden community, says Tom Mirasol, ALI assistant vice president.

The developer associated with some of the most highly valued residential communities in the country will ensure the "fenceless and free" concept of the subdivision by including a clause in the Deed Restrictions that homes and fences must follow a five-meter setback from the street.

Most other upscale residential areas have a setback from two to three-and-a-half meters. Elsewhere, few rules exist in relation to fences and most homeowners choose to ring their property line with forbidding walls.

Introducing new concepts

Ayala has been successful in introducing new concepts in community living through the building rules or Deed Restrictions which lot owners are bound to uphold upon signing the deed of sale. Mirasol recalls that in 1948, the company broke new ground in residential development by stipulating that piggeries could not be set up in backyards in Forbes Park in the interest of more gracious living.

"When people see how the development guidelines benefit them and the community as a whole, they readily uphold it," he discloses.

When you walk or drive through a garden community, you cannot help but be refreshed, discloses Mirasol. "We expect Sonera to set new standards in terms of providing an environment that will not only be more ecologically—but also more esthetically—friendly."

BOYS and their pets will feel free to explore the community at Sonera, the newest phase of Ayala Southvale.

Controlling access

Mirasol explains that Sonera's "fenceless and free" concept will be backed up by a state-of-the-art security system. Modern, computer-automated protection management systems will control access to the village and help keep intruders out of the community.

Specific areas along Sonera's perimeter for instance, will be monitored by advanced remote infra-red sensors and surveillance cameras. The sensors will emit rows of invisible beams, forming an "intelligent barrier." They will be able to differentiate between stray birds and more serious threats with the help of cameras that will operate 24 hours a day and which will be monitored by a security center.

Sonera will likewise control access to the village through electronically programmed tags that will prompt a boom gate to let a vehicle in or out of the village. The tags are similar to the e-passes now being used along the South Luzon Expressway.

As a rule, according to Mirasol, smaller residential areas are easier to secure and to nurture into closely-knit neighborhoods. "By bringing down some of the walls and keeping the place small, we will also be creating more opportunities for neighbors to know and interact with one another."

Setting up joint ventures for real estate projects

A SEMINAR on Joint Venture and Syndication for Real Estate Projects will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 7, from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Level 2, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Among the topics to be taken up are Concepts and Types of Joint Venture and Project Syndication; Reasons for Joint Ventures; Obligations of Landowner; Undertakings of the Developer; Role of the Syndicator; Financier's Role; Packaging a JV Proposal; The Syndication Agreement; Sharing Schemes; Safety Nets for Developer; Safeguards for Landowner; Provisions in Joint-Venture Contracts; and Participation Mortgages.

Lecturer would be Enrico Cruz, who is a civil engineer and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. He is a licensed real estate consultant who placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and 8th in the real estate brokers board examination in 1988.

Urban will also conduct at the same time and venue, the following topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone: July 4—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Learn before Investing; July 5—Property Development and HLURB Rules and Regulations; July 6—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; July 8—Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; July 11—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; July 12—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; July 13—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; July 14—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; July 15—Mathematics of Real Estate Investment.

For details, inquiries and registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 02-681-0928 or 0916-4269174 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Ayala Land shapes the vision that is Anvaya Cove

PREMIER developer Ayala Land Inc. ventured into its first offering in the leisure market by setting sights on developments here and abroad that exemplified the best practices of the industry. The idea was to pick out the elements that would meet the primary need of its target market—a place that would forge family bonding memories and one that would bond relationships between a person and his family, nature and self.

Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land's 320-hectare residential leisure community a few minutes south of the bustling Subic Bay freeport, was developed with careful consideration of the market and its needs.

True embodiment

"Anvaya," which means "family" in Sanskrit, is a true embodiment of the company's goal to capture the untapped market of Filipino families who wish to spend more time with their loved ones and who consider vacation periods as valuable opportunities to spend time with one another.

Anvaya Cove is the debut project of Ayala Land's Leisure and Lifestyle Communities Group, a relatively new division formed within the real-estate company that is tasked to explore and develop the market for real estate geared toward recreational living, leisure and secondary home or retirement purposes. With VP Marivic Añonuevo at its helm, Ayala Land is confidently poised to conquer the leisure market not just in the Philippines but overseas as well.

It was with full management support that the Anvaya Cove team set out to define the broad strokes that would mold the project. Together with representatives from Sudeco—a privately owned corporation which is the joint-development partner of ALI in Anvaya Cove—they went as far and wide as Hawaii, San Francisco, and Florida in the United States in order to get a better feel for the "modern tropical Asian" theme envisioned for the development.

Project team

The project team, headed by Beng Abella, also visited the nearby seaside residential leisure communities and high-end resorts of Phuket, Koh Samui and Hua Hin of Thailand.

The hardworking team spent what would have been an unhurried opportunity for a vacation absorbing and steadily documenting details that would make the difference in developing a premier leisure project. The fundamental eye-opener was the natural wealth of what their homeland could offer.

"The Philippines is blessed with such natural beauty. If other countries especially in Asia can create these resorts with such high quality, why can't we do the same in the Philippines?" asked Añonuevo of the project's basic driving force. "We set out to achieve this and maybe come up with something even better." Indeed, aligned with the Ayala vision of providing the best for the Filipino, Anvaya Cove was created with such a thought in mind.

"In our research and from our learnings abroad, we are finding that people are hungering more and more for the back-to-nature experience, away from it all. This is in line with our vision to enhance the natural environment of Anvaya Cove," said Marly Laraya, project and business development manager.

Retaining valuable patches

"In this development, we will be working with the lay of the land and will endeavor to retain ecologically valuable patches of green where birds and other wildlife thrive within and around the area," she added. Indeed, in Anvaya Cove, future homeowners and guests can look forward not only to in-nature relaxation but to learning as well, especially for the growing, impressionable young kids of the family.

"This is an intangible, priceless benefit we hope to offer—to bring them back to nature," she said. "We feel good to be able to offer this to families here in the Philippines."

It is easy for the team to dream big for Anvaya Cove. "We have seen in the Hualalai Hawaii experience how they have made something out of nothing—a first-class seaside resort development in what used to be lava wasteland," related Manny Illana, project architecture and planning manager.

Wonderful views

Blessed with a 3.5-kilometer coastline and its own private cove, the property has wonderful views in a variety of landscape characteristics of tree-lined drives, rolling hills, mango and bamboo groves, and a natural creek. These make for an exciting range of amenities that will be made available through the unique offering of a complete water and land nature experience at the Beach and Nature Club, Recreational Lagoon, Water Sports Pavilion and Nature Camp.

Of course, there is the importance of quality service and maintenance of property value over time—something that is not alien to the Ayala real estate company, which has pioneered in properly maintaining its properties for the benefit of its homeowners and customers. "What struck me in our visit to Banyan Tree in Phuket was the unfailing one-minute service.

While that level of service may be a bit too high for the resort quality service we aim for at Anvaya Cove, it gives us a good benchmark of what can be achieved," said Darwin Salipsip, project construction manager. "The high standard of service in leisure developments abroad affirmed our long-held strategy and we simply had to remind ourselves to uphold such practices," stated Añonuevo.

One important learning the team had was that the leisure experience need not be wrapped in elaborate and overly expensive trappings. "Even the highest-end resorts we visited were not elaborate structures. What they all did specialize in was in making an occasion of even the most mundane. The key is in the well-thought-out plans and simplicity of delivery. Landscaping plays a crucial role in delivering this experience," added Abella.

After the long journey Ayala Land has embarked on molding its first leisure development, the outcome is definitely being eagerly anticipated as Anvaya Cove is soon to be unveiled in the local scene.

ANVAYA Cove: envisioned as a place that will bond relationships with your family, with nature and with yourself.

LUSH landscaping and serenity at the quiet poolside of the Bayan Tree, Phuket.

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Verdana Homes Mamplasan sets open house

YOUNG urban achievers and investors can get a taste of ideal suburban living in the south as Verdana Homes Mamplasan invites the public to its open house tomorrow.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a residential subdivision by Community Innovations Inc., the same Ayala Land subsidiary responsible for the much-desired Verdana Homes on Daang Hari Road in Bacoor.

35-hectare dev"t

It is a 35-hectare development located in fast progressing Biñan, Laguna, which features exotic Asian-Balinese architecture and a roster of amenities for all ages to delight with.

Designed by experts, its subdivision plan contains uniquely designed subneighborhood clusters which encourage a community spirit among neighbors while taking into mind the needs of today's upscale Filipino families.

Within Verdana Homes Mamplasan's safe and closely-knit environment, residents can feel assured about their kids running freely around the wide open spaces and pocket parks.

The master plan of the village also encourages close interaction among neighbors and promotes a more intimate community living that cannot be found in big and crowded subdivisions.

Living next door to gracious promenades, its picnic areas and pocket parks foster idyllic living, perfect for the enjoyment of young families looking for a nature-inspired escape from the rigors of city life.

Residents need not worry about the maintenance of the village's amenities, as CII ensures that these will be properly kept in order by the Ayala Property Management Corp. Residents and investors alike will value this important quality of all Ayala projects as it guarantee the long-term value appreciation of their investment.

Homeowners may start to finally enjoy the experience of living in Verdana Homes Mamplasan as CII begins the turnover of Phase 1 lots starting this month.

House and lot packages

The subdivision features generously sized lots ranging from 180 to 500 square meters with most sizes at 200 sq m.

The house and lot packages are designed with three spacious bedrooms, excellent ventilation, ample storage areas, wide carports and porches, comfortable maids' quarters, and natural lighting—all existing in a pleasant environment.

The floor area of the houses ranges from 127 to 225 sq m and are perfect for growing families, providing extra space to allow expansion in the future. All these features may be view by interested parties once the house and lots model units are open for viewing by September.

Luxurious amenities

The development's luxurious amenities are now being fast-tracked for completion to accommodate the growing community.

Soon to rise is its two-hectare Central Park that boasts of a grand clubhouse, a 25-meter lap pool and a kiddie pool, biking and jogging trails, basketball and badminton courts, a modern children's playground, open playfields, and leisure areas with picnic grounds, strolling paths and park benches. The clubhouse is scheduled to be completed by December of this year.

For more information, call (02) 888-0000, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph. Interested parties may also visit the sales booth at the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2005

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Super!Countdown

Have a date with Dad

wired
and
tapped

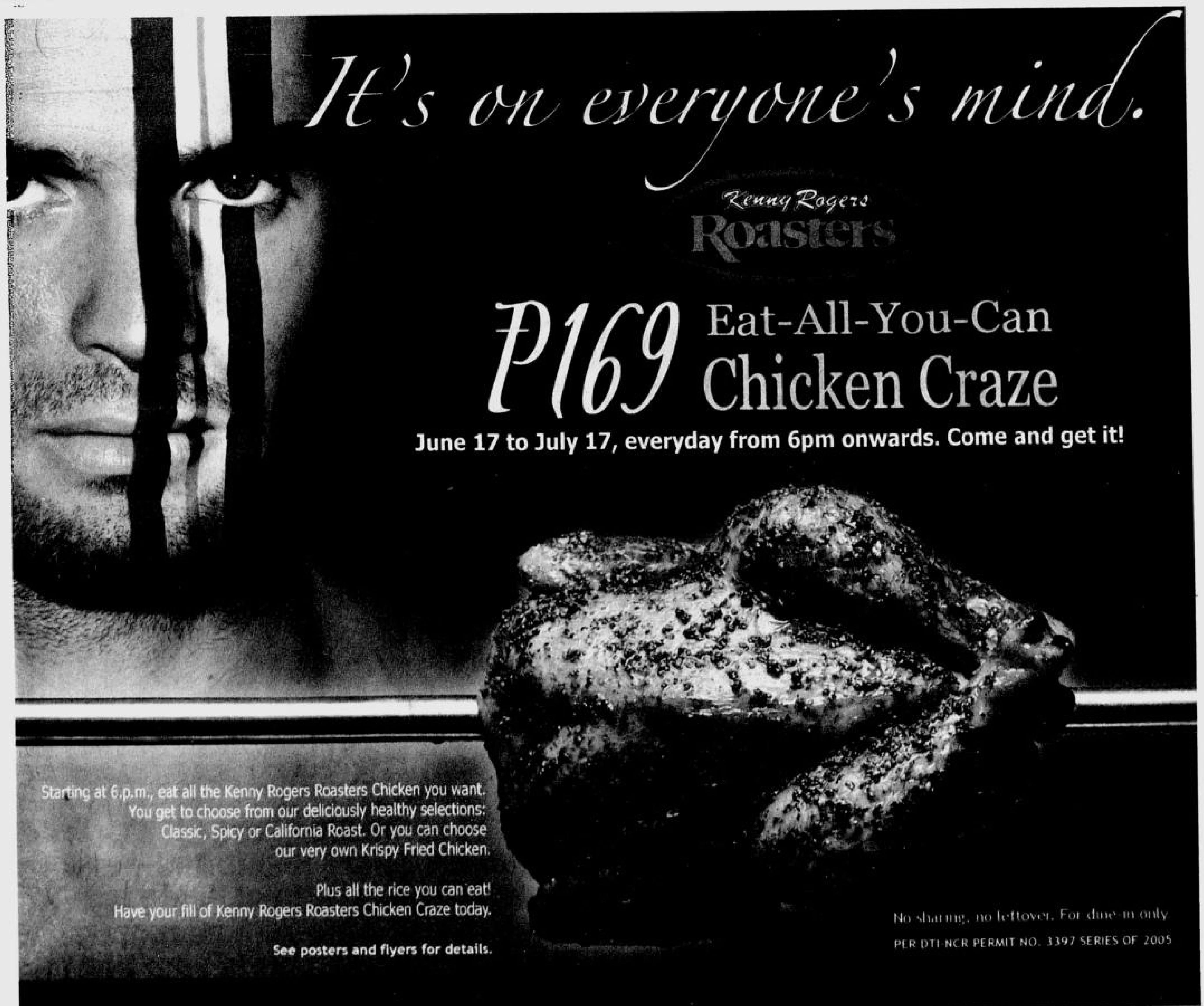
Super! page C1-03
The new generation
22 under 22

Talking straight to **Kyan** and **Thom** page F1

Raymart as a father according to Claudine page G1

What George **Vuitton** did for dad Louis page F2

Produced by JAMES GABRILLO AND PEPE DIOKNO
Photography: FRANK HOEFSMIT
Grooming and makeup: XENG ZULUETA and JIGS MAYUGA of Shu Uemura
Cover Star: SUPER'S NEW AVANTGUARDIANS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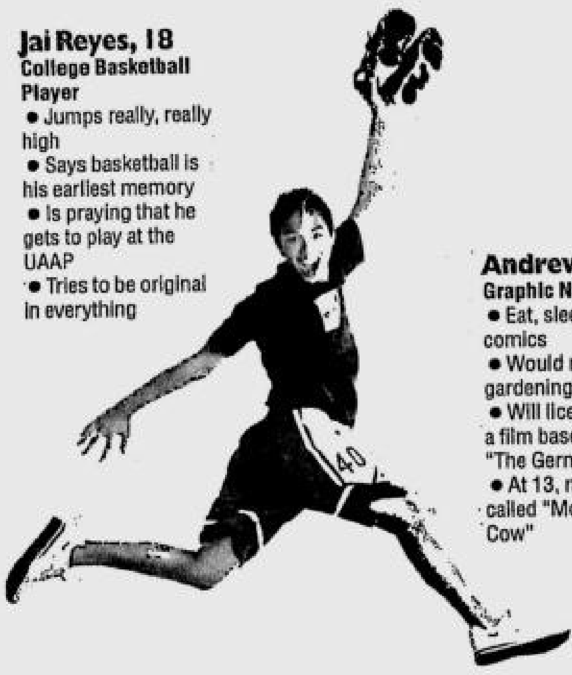
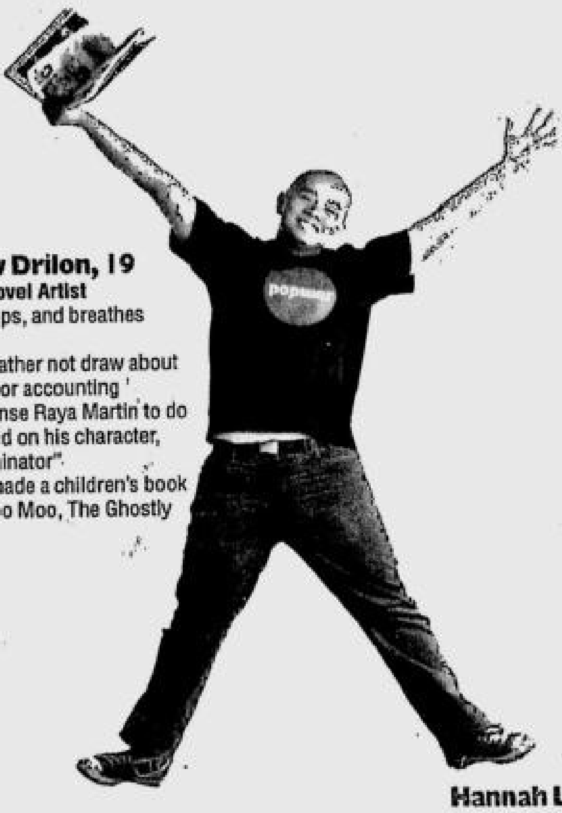


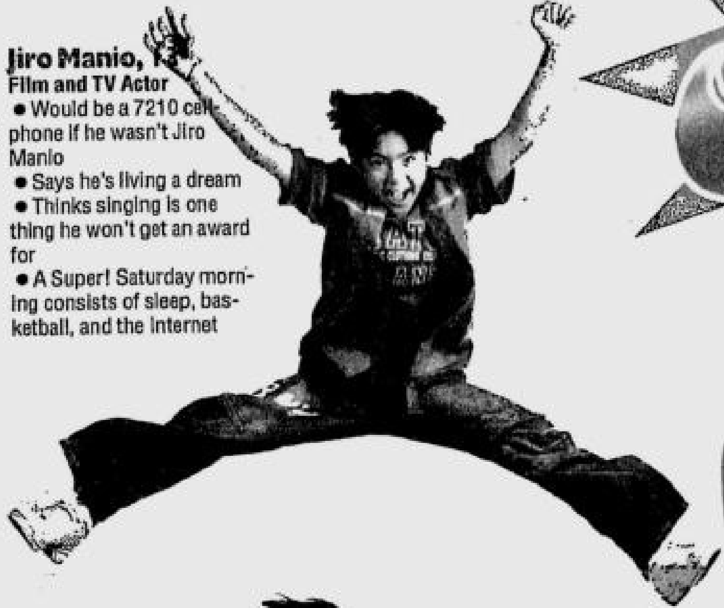
Jai Reyes, 18
College Basketball Player

- Jumps really, really high
- Says basketball is his earliest memory
- Is praying that he gets to play at the UAAP
- Tries to be original in everything



Andrew Drilon, 19
Graphic Novel Artist

- Eat, sleeps, and breathes comics
- Would rather not draw about gardening or accounting
- Will license Raya Martin to do a film based on his character, "The Germinator"
- At 13, made a children's book called "Moo Moo, The Ghostly Cow"



Jiro Manio, 1
Film and TV Actor

- Would be a 7210 cellphone if he wasn't Jiro Manio
- Says he's living a dream
- Thinks singing is one thing he won't get an award for
- A Super! Saturday morning consists of sleep, basketball, and the internet

Hannah Liongoren, 20
Graphic Artist

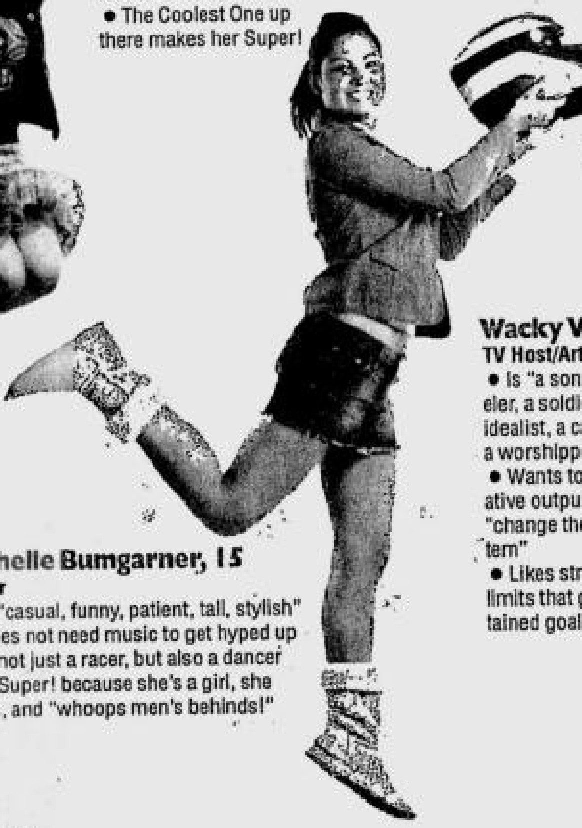
- Is "your typical lets-eat-ice cream-when-depressed kinda girl"
- Finds it easier to describe oneself in the 3rd person
- Thinks she's Super! because she was able to fry a sunny side up egg perfectly at one try
- Believes she's lucky to be born in a family of artists

Jenna Genio, 17
Photographer

- Calls herself an "aspiring photographer"
- Is a girl who goes everywhere with studded boots
- Does not want to see a picture of Christina Aguilera
- Has won a spelling bee in first grade

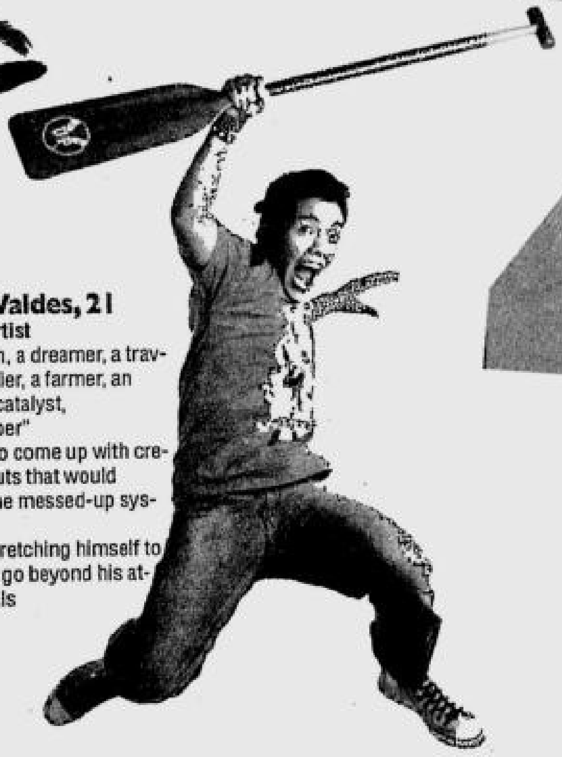
CJ de Silva, 17
Visual Artist

- Does not want to be confined as "that Promil kid"
- Does not sell her doodles, but her paintings sell for thousands
- Loves Dolphy's texture and tonal values
- The Coolest One up there makes her Super!



Michelle Bumgarner, 15
Racer

- Is "casual, funny, patient, tall, stylish"
- Does not need music to get hyped up
- Is not just a racer, but also a dancer
- Is Super! because she's a girl, she races, and "whoops men's behinds!"



Wacky Valdes, 21
TV Host/Artist

- Is "a son, a dreamer, a traveler, a soldier, a farmer, an idealist, a catalyst, a worshipper"
- Wants to come up with creative outputs that would "change the messed-up system"
- Likes stretching himself to limits that go beyond his attained goals

Puppeteers: James G
Visual God: Frank Hoe

Mishka
Musician

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- Cannot
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The Bloomfields
Musicians

- Know 50's and 60's music better than their parents
- Most of the people they dream of performing with are dead
- Clean their own suits
- Call their music "super-rockin-n-a-rollin-two-by-two"

Atom Araullo, 22
All-around guy

- Describes himself as "a dissident"
- Is not a fan of society pages
- Believes that perfect happiness is offering one's talents for the continuing struggle of the wretched
- Does not see himself as the future president of the country

DJ Myke Salomon, 21
Musician

- "Plays turntables with his mouth" for the Akafellas
- Believes that music makes him human
- Is not up for showbiz
- Isn't really fond of competitions

Everyone loves an asian boy

Raya Martin, 20
Filmmaker

- Would rather see his dream project than his diploma
- Still enjoys listening to the Spice Girls, "the best band ever!"
- Has a cousin named Ricky, but is not related to Ricky Martin
- Won second runner-up at a singing contest back in third grade

We're kids, but we're living lives with meaning—'cause we're out with our goals, we're doing what we love, and we don't think we'll ever grow tired of it. Super! is when you break the boxes society builds around you. When you make something of yourself—without wearing someone else's gloves. When you follow what's inside you—and know what it is without being told. A Super! life is a life with no regrets. This is our world. This is your life. Don't let anyone tell you how to live it. BREAK OUT!

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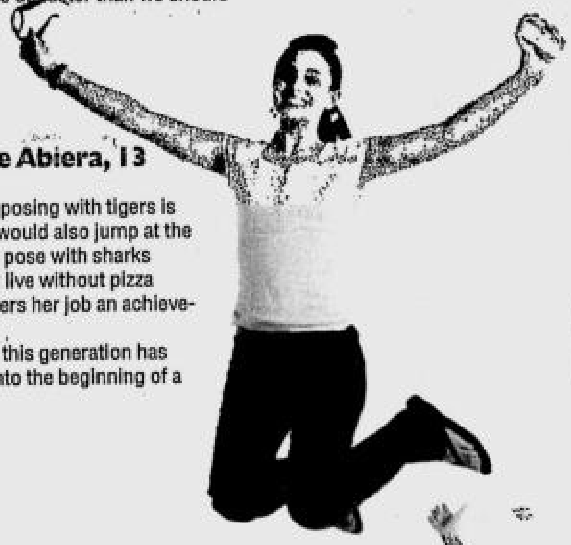
Jessie Suaco, 21
DJ/Entrepreneur
- Spins records "around a turntable in hopes of making people dance"
- Recently opened a DJ school to share the wonders of vinyl with othes
- Thinks a Bayani Agbayani song would be a fun thing to remix
- Thinks our generation grows up faster than we should



Isabelle Abiera, 13
Model
- Thinks posing with tigers is cool, but would also jump at the chance to pose with sharks
- Cannot live without pizza
- Considers her job an achievement
- Thinks this generation has evolved into the beginning of a next era

Matteo Guidicelli, 15
Racer
- Can't live without his family
- Not just a racer, but also a model
- Thinks that when people first see him, they're probably thinking "he's seventeen"
- Dreams of competing with any of the F1 drivers

Paul Leopando, 18
International School Valedictorian/Harvard Student
- Is "a young, driven, and semi-geekish Caviteño"
- Also plays and teaches music
- Cannot live without mass-produced, exceedingly well-packaged, refrigerated non-fat milk solid derivatives
- Is taking his secret laboratory with him to Harvard (he says it's in his head)

Gaia Sanchez, 12
Theatre Actress
- Draws inspiration from her family
- Has recorded children's songs
- Has acting bug bites
- Has never broken a leg for real, but has almost fallen off the back of Jett Pangan

Victor Basa, 20
Model
- Is a true Gemini
- Is a "walking, talking mannequin, and a sloganeering eavesdropper"
- Is willing to do a 24-hour shoot anytime
- Won a science fair in grade school

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Adams, 21

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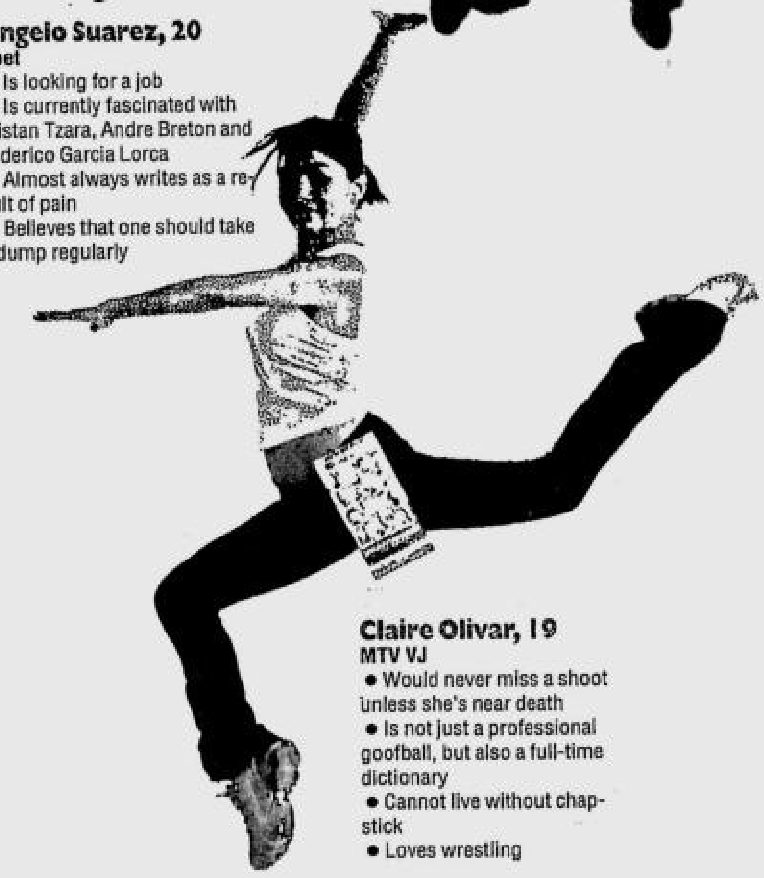

Angelo Suarez, 20
Poet
- Is looking for a job
- Is currently fascinated with Tristan Tzara, Andre Breton and Federico Garcia Lorca
- Almost always writes as a result of pain
- Believes that one should take a dump regularly

Claire Olivar, 19
MTV VJ
- Would never miss a shoot unless she's near death
- Is not just a professional goofball, but also a full-time dictionary
- Cannot live without chapstick
- Loves wrestling

Shards of Ice
Musicians
- Could have been called Soniq's Synergy
- Their heads have started melting as a result of global warming
- Are so ready for Fete de la Musique today!
- Broke boundaries with the release of their album

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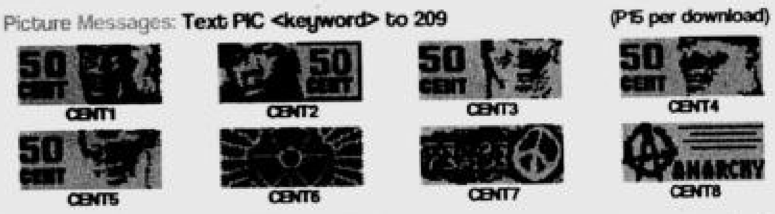

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PIMP	50 Cent	CENT3	Hush	LL Cool J	CENT13
21 Questions	50 Cent	CENT4	Over and Over	Nelly	CENT14
Disco Inferno	50 Cent	CENT5	Baby I'm Back	Baby Bash	CENT15
Places to Go	50 Cent	CENT6	O	Omarion	CENT16
How We Do	The Game	CENT7	Na Nana Na	Nelly	CENT17
Signs	Snoop Dogg feat. Justin Timberlake & Charlie Wilson	CENT8	That's What It's Made For	Usher	CENT18
Hope	Twista feat. Faith Evans	CENT9	Soldier	Destiny's Child	CENT19
Lovers & Friends	Lil Jon feat. Usher & Ludacris	CENT10	Karma	Alicia Keys	CENT20

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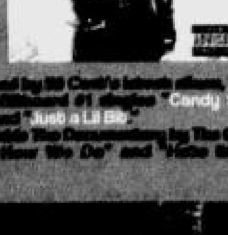

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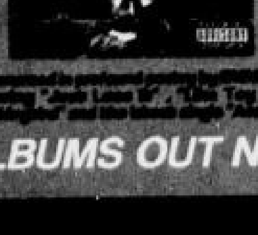

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Dreamers, mavericks, breakout kids

Finding their niche in an old boxed-up world

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

PHOTOS BY FRANK HOEFSMIT

The Bloomfields: JayJay Lozano, Pepe Lozano, Louie Poco, Lakan Hila, Rocky Collado

Have won two Battle of the Bands competitions; "We wrote a Tagalog song with a 60's groove and a five vocal harmony."

What do The Bloomfields represent? We represent the musicians of the Philippines who still want to have fun through music (as opposed to those who are dark and sullen and hate the world and all that)... or at least we'd like to.

How important is music to man?

For some people it's just another way to make money. Some think music is life itself. We don't really know what the world would be without music. But we're pretty sure it's not something any of us would like to live in.

Shards of Ice: Lex Adarme, Dean Rosen and Griff Chatwin

Released their album, "The Monkeys Have Landed"; performed at Pulp Summer Slam 2005; won a Battle of the Bands competition; will perform at Fete de la Musique tonight

What makes you Super!?

We're a young band that plays a style of music that we think doesn't deserve to fade out, or be affected by today's mainstream pop! We wanna bring back the good old heavy metal of the '80s, and at the same time add elements to our music that makes us unique.

Are you proud of this generation?

Sure we are... well the answer kinda depends if we relate it to music. We're proud in the sense that music has evolved to become such a big industry, and today's artists are beyond amazing... but sometimes we still feel like it could be improved in the future.

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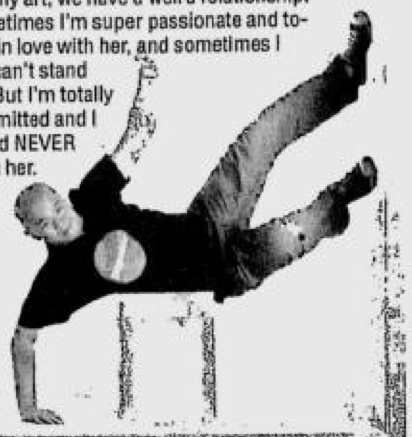
Andrew Drilon

Grand Prize Winner, 2002 Likha Comics Making Contest; youngest contributor to the National Book Award-winning anthology, Siglo: Freedom; Has done designs for Villeroy & Boch (a German ceramics company)

How passionate are you with your art? Me and my art, we have a weird relationship. Sometimes I'm super passionate and totally in love with her, and sometimes I just can't stand her. But I'm totally committed and I would NEVER leave her.



Angelo Suarez

Palanca Awardee; has published two books, "The Nymph of MTV" and "Else It Was Purely Girls"; Fellow for Poetry in three National Writers Workshops; Bridges of Struga International Poetry Prize from Unesco and the Republic of Macedonia

One thing I've learned, the poem isn't always about insight or meaning. Sometimes it just IS: the image all glorious in its clarity because of its being, not meaning.

Are you proud of this generation? Of course I am. What is there to be ashamed of? It's a carnival out there, man. A carnival of pain and joy and suffering and triumph. Magic and murder, love and laceration. It's a frigging carnival, and everybody likes the circus.

Cj de Silva

Youngest Apple Macintosh Master in the world; Gartoon Network's Mayor's Choice Awards for Arts; Four one-woman exhibits

How do you view your art? I consider my artworks not just as mere expressions, but messages that I communicate to people. Being an artist isn't just about the angst and the splashes of paint—its about being a responsible communicator.

Like Van Gogh, have you found anything that you're ready to cut your ear for? The attitudes we have acquired; like how we're all too image-conscious and that sometimes we forget what things really mean and why they're here. Being "it" is such a big concern for us.

Are you proud of this generation? I am. Because despite all the negative things, there are still a number who are successful. We are united in one thing: individuality.

Claire Olivar

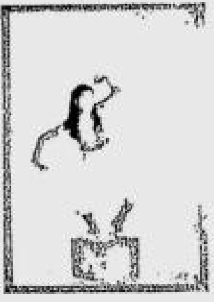
Has won various piano and dance competitions; MTV VJ Hunt 2005 winner

What's the most challenging thing they've made you do up in VJ land? The VJ Hunt itself was a challenge because I was competing against 15 other extremely competent people. We had all these activities, and the most difficult for me was the acting challenge 'cause I've never had any acting experience. It was fun learning, though.

Who do you dream of interviewing? I've always wanted to interview Hanson because I've been a fan since 1997. It's just nice to see a band maturing musically with the times after starting out as somewhat of a one-hit wonder.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes. Judging from this list alone, you can see how at such a young age, this generation is unbelievably well-rounded and talented. There's so much potential.

Gala Sanchez



Consistent honor student; Recently performed in Actors' Actors Inc.'s "Once On This Island"

How passionate are you with the performing arts? I will never stop until I get it right. Whether it's a major role or a bit part, I give it the same attention. I enjoyed "Once On This Island" so much because we all get to play lead roles and still be part of the chorus.

What makes you Super!? It takes someone Super! to be able to do her best in school, to keep up with theater rehearsals and performances, as well as spend quality time with her family and friends.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes, because I AM part of it.

Hannah Liongoren

One-woman show at PINTO art gallery; UP Fine Arts college scholar; regular contributor for MEGA publications

How passionate are you with your art? Art is like my pet dog. It's always happy to see me; it never leaves when I'm sad. I feed it and we get along fine.

Like Van Gogh, have you found anything that you're ready to cut your ear for? Probably a second chance to redeem myself from my mistakes.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes! We have so much talent. I know a lot who have great potential in the business. But with all the information we have easy access to, I'm not surprised that kids these days learn fast.

Isabelle Abiera

"My job is an achievement in itself. I'm proud of how far I've come from starting out inexperienced."

Who are you? I'm a perfectionist. I also like knowing something about everything. But despite this, I'm really just a laid-back person. Anyone who knows me will tell you I talk a lot.

How passionate are you with what you do? I love my job. Being a model means so much to me because it has helped me grow as a person and as an individual.

Are you proud of this generation? I'm proud of this generation because I think it has totally evolved into the beginning of a new era. The last generation has accomplished so much already and I think this generation will achieve so much more.

Jai Reyes

Season 66 Mythical 5; champion team of Season 67; UAAP Mythical Five; various medals in track events

Who are you? Someone unique. I always try to be original in everything. I'm God-fearing and do my best in everything I engage in.

How passionate are you with basketball? Basketball has been a part of my life since my earliest memory. My family, being basketball-inclined also has made me love this sport so much. Let's put it this way: you haven't eaten for a week and a very delicious meal is in front of you. Think of how passionately you will eat the food. That's how I am with my game.

So... who's going to win this year in UAAP?

I'm not sure but I think the Blue Eagles are good.

Dreamers, mavericks, breakout kids

Jenna Genio

Photographer for various newspapers and magazines

What do you say to people who think that fashion isn't art? Some of it isn't art, some of it is. I don't blame you if it's all just prêt-à-porter stuff you've been seeing here, because functional everyday stuff is just craftsmanship. You have to see the creation of a designer whose intentions are to make something beautiful and eye-opening for the runway, the camera, and not the street. If you don't think something so theatrical and romantically impractical is art, then I invite you to a coffee shop to tell me what you think art should be.

Are you proud of this generation? We rely too much on trends. Everyone looks and acts the same. I guess it's the same way with every generation, though. But I have to say yes, 'cause despite the general insipidity, there are so many young people breaking the mold. Go us!

Jessie Suaco

2nd place at the 2002 Nescafe Ministry of Sound Global DJ Finals in Acapulco, Mexico; founded and runs Spin City, the first local school for DJs

How fulfilling is it to teach your craft to others? When you see your students up there and DJ in front of a crowd, you know you've accomplished something because most of our students have never tried DJ-ing before.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes and no. Because the world is so fast nowadays that people physically grow up much faster but somehow I think a lot of us still need a lot of nourishment from within. We do grown-up stuff but within us we're still kids. We lack a lot of values... and I sound like my mother.

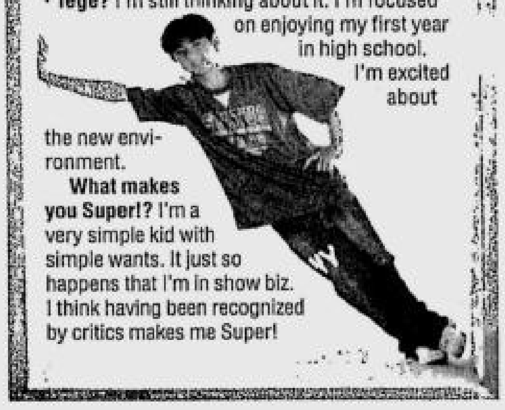
Jiro Manio

Best Actor: FAMAS, PASADO, Gawad Urian; Citations in various film fests worldwide.

Do you ever stop and think of how much you've achieved at this age? Yes, I think about how I reached this stage in my life. It's like a dream.

What are you planning to take up in college? I'm still thinking about it. I'm focused on enjoying my first year in high school. I'm excited about the new environment.

What makes you Super!? I'm a very simple kid with simple wants. It just so happens that I'm in show biz. I think having been recognized by critics makes me Super!



Matteo Guidicelli

Has won various Karting championships; Junior Karter of the Year; has joined various ICA Junior Championships

Was it hard posing with that hanger in your latest billboard? Yeah! We had to hang on a pole, like 100 times!

What makes you Super!? I never give up. I am always up for everything and I try my very best to achieve what I want.

Are you proud of this generation? I am proud because we are well-rounded, sports minded and 'cause our technology is one of a kind.

Michelle Bumgarner

Has won numerous Karter of the Year awards; Female Motorsports Driver of the Year; first ever Filipino to race in the Winter Cup held in South Garda, Lontao, Italy

Do you drive, like, on normal roads—with actual traffic? I do, but I'm not supposed to since I'm under age... Hahaha. (I don't know if I should be telling you this)

Which racer do you dream of competing with? Probably Davide Fore, Ben Hanley, Sauro Cesetti, Marco Ardigo, Henkie Waldschmid, Michael Schumacher, Kimi Raikonnen and Jeff Gordon.

Are you proud of this generation? Definitely, I mean, people under 22 are achieving great things that the old generation has never done before...

Mishka Adams

Named best new female artist at the 18th Awit Awards (2005); released her album, "God Bless the Child" under international indie jazz label Candid Records; with sold out performances in London

Who are you? A singer.

How passionate are you with what you do? I cannot imagine myself doing something else.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes, because people are finding out and discovering new things, Like in music, kids are exploring new genres.

DJ Myke Salomon

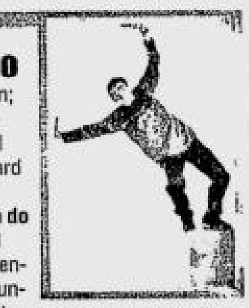
Won the Mossimo Bikini Summit 2004 1st Runner-up; various music awards; 1st place Benchpress Open 2002 - Gold's Gym; vocal percussionist for the Akafellas

How passionate are you with your music? Music makes me human. It's because I think that music is the reason we are different from other creatures.

How passionate are you with your music? Music makes me human. It's because I think that music is the reason we are different from other creatures.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes and no. Yes because lots of kids are starting to discover their true selves. No because lots of kids

Paul Leopando



ISM '05 Valedictorian; concertmaster, ISM orchestra; recipient of full scholarship from Harvard University

Which living person do you idolize the most? I admire UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for his unwavering commitment to peace and justice, his steadfast leadership, his coolness under pressure, and his awesome accent.

After Harvard, please come back and help the country. Please? Please?

Sure. In the meantime, please work together to lead it in the right direction!

Are you proud of this generation? I am proud of this generation because in spite of all today's turmoil and confusion, we still know how to let our voice be heard, to maintain a positive outlook, and to have fun.

Raya Martin

Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema; Best Docu at .mov International Digital Film Festival; Participant at the Berlinale Talent Campus, Berlin International Film Fest; Kodak Achievement Award for 35mm Best Thesis

So, where is the film industry going? We don't know, which makes it all the more exciting.

How powerful is film? Let's just say Lenin had his hand over the Soviet through films.

What makes you Super!? I'm doing what I love to do. At the end of the day I get to kill no one, and still have the time to sing and dance my heart out.

Are you proud of this generation? Considering our how our condition was brutalized by previous generations, yes of course!

Victor Basa

Best Model Form at the MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2004

Is there something you're interested in that *no one* knows about... yet? Old Duran Duran music videos, polaroids, airsoft, superfuture.com, mad rad hair, visionaire

What do you think about fashion being used for political statements? I don't really care much for it, some causes may be very admirable but it's how the statement is translated into design that really decides whether it's groundbreaking or if it should just be buried in the ground.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes and No. True, people have started to be more interested in new things but their tendency to namedrop to give them some kind of credit just wastes people's time.

Joaquin Valdes

UP DragonBoat Team Paddler; Campus Worker for Every Nation Campus Ministries; TV Host, Breakfast Studio 23

What makes you Super!? I'm just like the next guy you find on the street, your anthropology seatmate, or the nerd in your geology class... Everyone is Super!, they just have to tap into that thing that will let it all out.

Are you proud of this generation? We're a generation of World Changers! We're the only generation that's called "extreme," from games, to sports to concepts, to music, to videos, to literature... our generation has broken round... It's set apart as the generation that has a distinct purpose, a revolutionary destiny. A generation that births a new flock of effective, efficient and righteous leaders. It's just up to us now to turn the potential into kinetic.

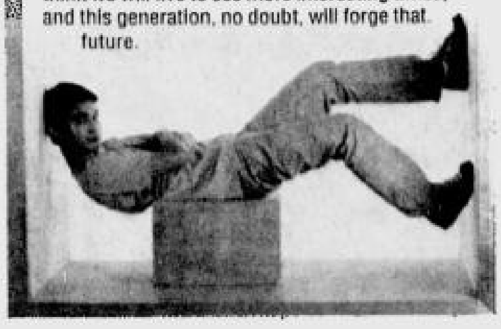
Atom Araullo

"Most Punctual in my swimming team when I was 6 years old."

Why is it important for kids to take a stand? Because there is nothing else we can do. Our own future is at stake. Making a stand is our historical responsibility.

What political issue are you most interested in? At the moment, it's getting rid of a president who is responsible for so much misery.

Are you proud of this generation? Yes. I think we will live to see more interesting times, and this generation, no doubt, will forge that future.



Being No. 23

Who didn't make the Super! selection

By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo

YOU'RE probably reserving the 23rd and 24th spots for you and your best buddy. Bad news though, it's already taken. But don't lock yourself in the bathroom and start staring at the razors—it doesn't work. Neither does binge eating—Pepe says it doesn't work. Neither does watching "Shutter" thrice—James says it doesn't work.

'Cause when we found out we weren't on the list, we tried everything to get on it. We e-mailed ourselves, rallied in front of the mirror with a banner that says, "Take me! Get me!" But nothing happened.

So we know how it feels. (Sob.) Let us console you.

The Super! 22 Under 22 is a product of connections, Googling, and sitting through hours of TV, magazines and newspapers. If you aren't on the list, it doesn't mean you're not Super!—it's just that you aren't on the range of the Super! connections... and Googling... and TV, magazines and newspapers.

But that's okay. 'Cause usually society doesn't see its treasures. If nobody knows you, good. 'Cause nobody knows you *yet*. That just means you have so much more to do.

And that is the spirit of the Super! 22 Under 22—that they're so young with so much more to do. All of us who didn't make it, we have so much more to do. Hurray! Let's be tireless—let's do everything we can, everything we want. It shouldn't seem like work to us, because we love it—just like the 22 love what they do.

You know, we shouldn't even have to console you. 'Cause lists like these don't measure up to how rich our generation is. Lists like these are just a statement saying, "We're here! Listen!"

The truth is, The Super! 22 Under 22 isn't about these individuals. It's about the Super! youth. It shows the world that our generation is capable of doing great things, that our country has something to look forward to, that we aren't what the old people say we are.

If we had more space, it would be a Super! 296,381,342,344 under 22—we're sure. It'll take a few years to feature everyone our age who's doing something good.

And if you don't think you're ever going to be on the list, in the words of the great Britney Spears, all you have to do is "do something! (nanananana...)" It's that easy.

Congratulations, y'all. Break out.

THEY take slots 23-27 on the Super! list

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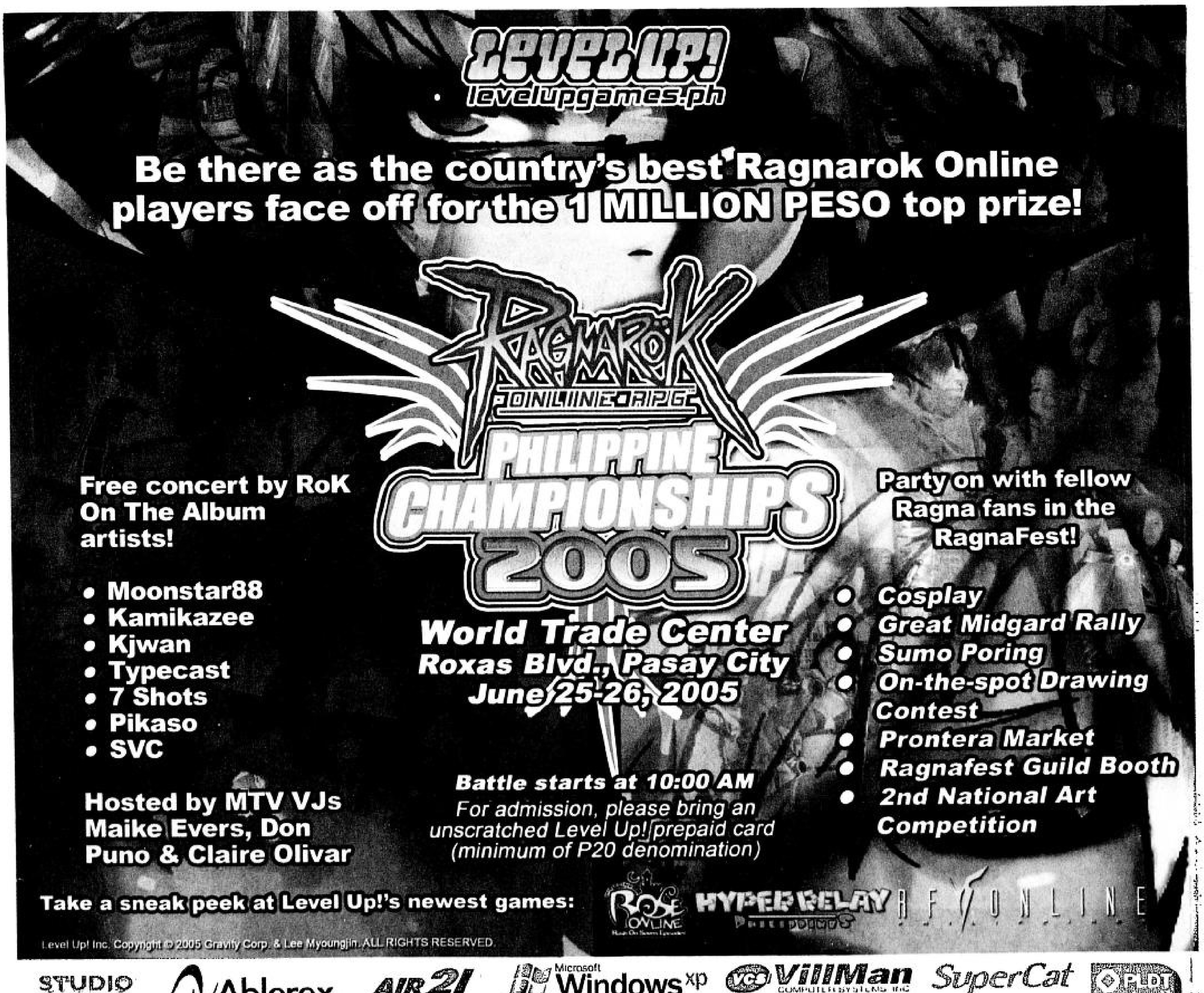

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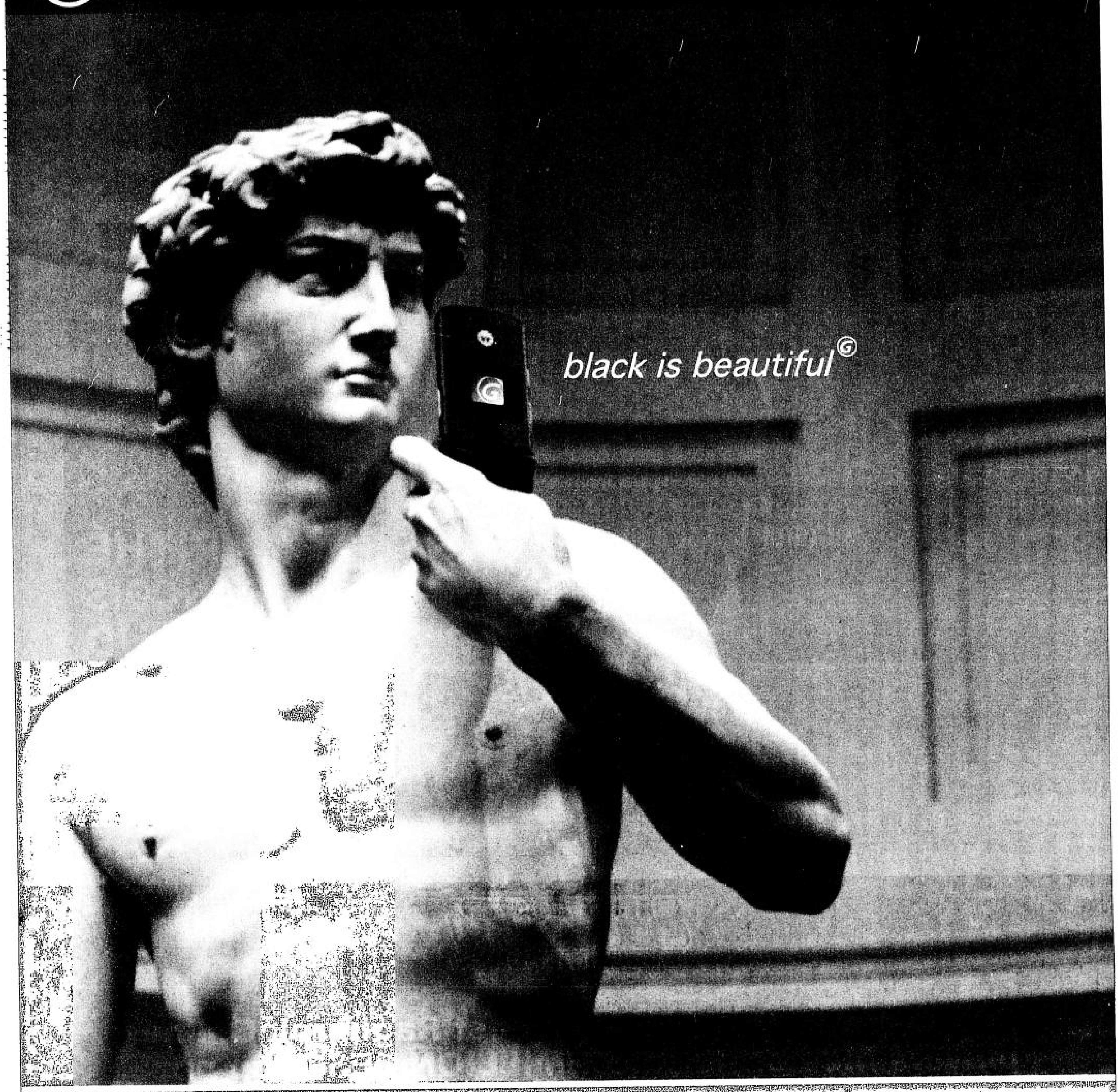

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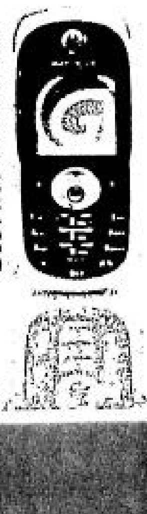
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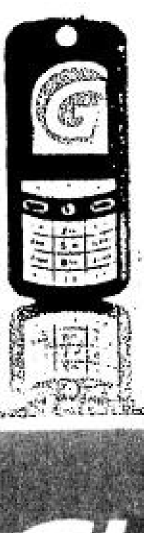
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Intrigue makes the world go round—sigh—whether we like it or not

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

"In the end, everything is a gag."
–Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977)

CAN Y'ALL feel the love? Can you really?

Like it or not, we have already witnessed a drunken conga line of crap snake its way from the bowels of politics and pop culture to the front pages of our young lives. Here's a quick roll call: Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction, Iraqi prisoner abuse, Ethel Booba's reported sex tape, Vin Diesel's "The Chronicles of Riddick," Edsa 3, 4 or 16—someone please cue in Josh Groban before I go on.

Naggingly familiar, those recent scandals show that the adults who run this planet really care for us impressionable, idealistic and iPod-dependent youth. Awww. It's extremely reassuring, right? Let me swallow some shards of broken glass now.

But it doesn't stop there. Hot off the press, the latest exposé to introduce new levels of (unsolicited) confusion to our Pinoy pop universe involves a mysterious—somewhat retro—audio tape and a certain Philippine president. Gasp! Or not.

According to our big brothers who write for the main news section, a wiretapped conversation involving President Arroyo alleges that she had pressed for a one-million-vote margin over now-dead movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., her closest rival in last year's elections. Toss in a few bribery charges concerning her eldest son, add some Cuervo gold, and—paraphrasing annoying celebrichef Emeril Lagasse—"Bam! Bam!" The peso drops to a worm's-eye-view low against the US dollar. How movie-of-the-week-ish.

Impact of said crap

The government, of course, is quick to downplay the impact of all this crap on the exceptionally fragile economy. "Business is about the economy, less about politics," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a previous interview with INQUIRER Business. I guess that's his own fantasy so let him have it. The rest of the world, however, won't be as optimistic, much less forgiving, with reference to the scandal-seared Arroyo administration.

As I've learned from my Psych 101 and Advertising classes and, I think, "Mean Girls," it's all about conditioning. In a nutshell: If you repeatedly give someone reasons to doubt your credibility/product/mental stability, you are, in effect, teaching him or her to associate you with lies/a lemon/possible psychosis.

Take that line of reasoning and alter it to fit the current issues rattling the government. You'll wind up with this analogy—Philippines: run by rampaging jackasses. Commence screaming/mass wrist-slitting now.

Private lives and public roles

In his essay "Private Lives and Public Roles," Paul Richardson, assistant bishop of the diocese of Newcastle in England, reflects on what could possibly happen when secret activities of public figures become headline news.

"In the present climate, nothing will stop the media feeding the public appetite for scandal. What could once be kept secret now causes banner headlines. Politicians who make fools of themselves in their private lives risk becoming figures of fun and are forced to spend time and energy in restoring trust at home and trying to neutralize damaging media attention. Their effectiveness in government can be impaired and they cannot expect to be taken seriously when they call for policies to strengthen the family," he eloquently said.

John Major, former prime minister dude of the United Kingdom, even believed that the appetite for scandal, once awakened, is not

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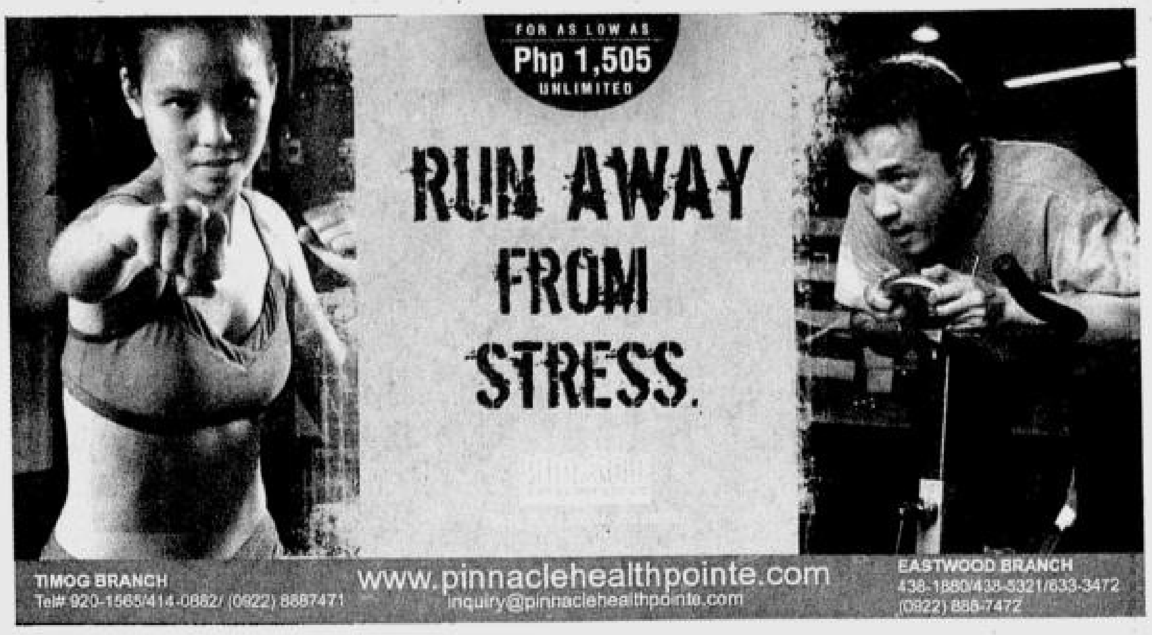

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1 Raffle Draw date has been moved from June 6, 2005 to June 22, 2005 Wednesday 6pm. The raffle draw will be held at the Samsung Office at the ground floor of Bonaventure Plaza in Ortigas Avenue in the presence of a DTI representative.
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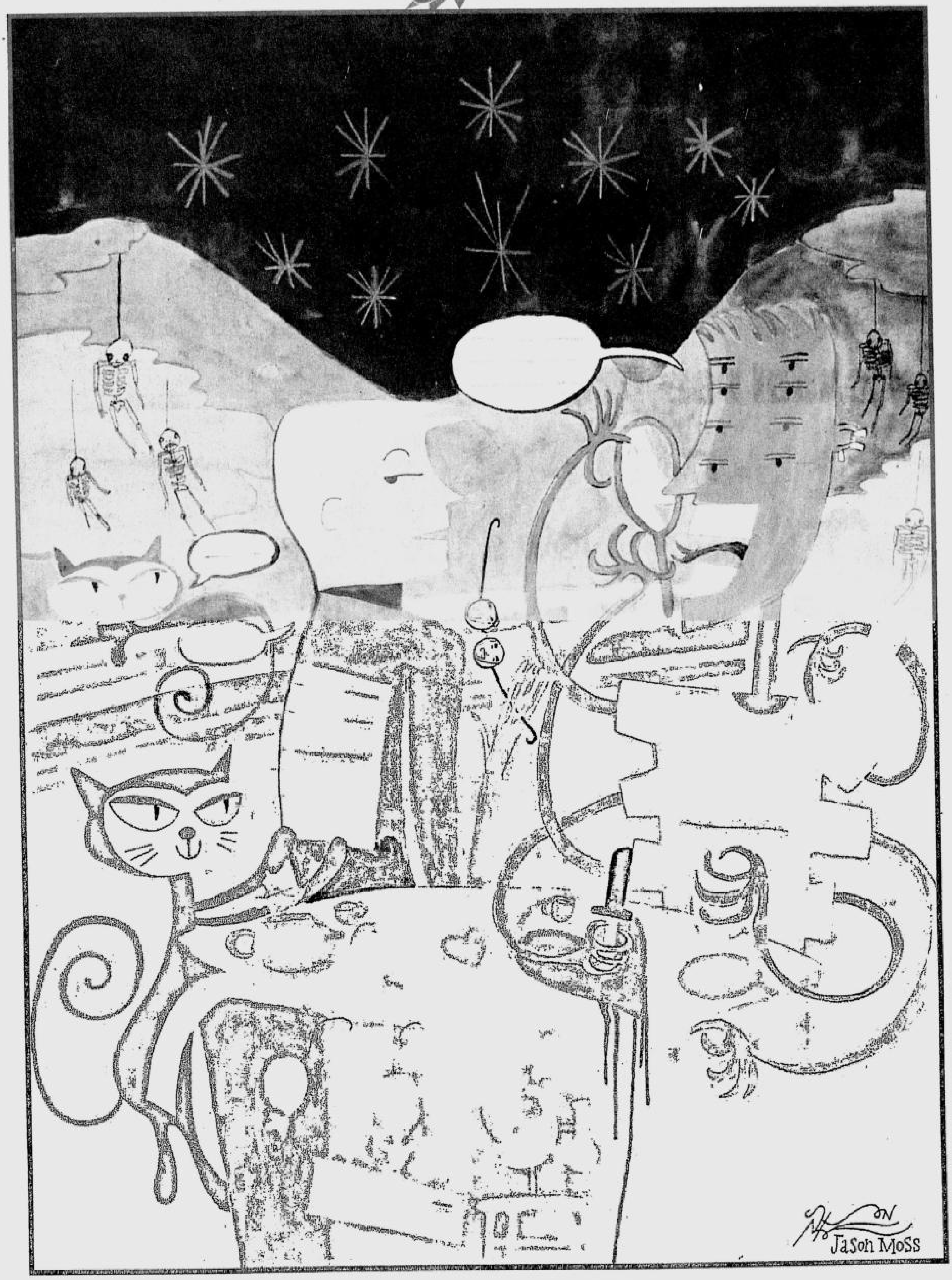
Per DTI-NCR No. 0688, Series of 2005



A Myopic Heart

We are all victims of double vision; we blur our inner sight to see what we desire

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

THEY say that love is blind. I say that all it needs is a good pair of glasses. For most of my life I have been visually dependent on contacts or spectacles. Even if photography or cinematography was my passion of choice, I could get by in my profession without 20/20 vision due to outside "help." Perfect sight is something that is often taken for granted, I see how the younger generation stares endlessly into their computer monitors and I have to restrain myself from lecturing them about the perils of being slave to one's ophthalmologist and optometrist. Oh don't worry I'm not about to lecture you (do you have adequate lighting while you're reading this?) When your eyesight starts to fail, you are slipped on a pair of frames (with all kinds of shapes and sizes) or a plethora of contact lenses that range from soft, to hard, and even to colored. But enough is enough, after 15 years of looking at life through sometimes rose, green, or yellow tinted glasses I decided to book myself for laser eye surgery.

Under the knife

The last time I've ever had to undergo any kind of operation was when I was 6. I was feeling invincible and running as fast as the wind. Unfortunately, unlike the wind, when I slammed straight into a steel pole I didn't pass through it gracefully, I kind of splattered. That was my first brush with a surgeon's knife and needle. Now, more than two decades later I find myself at The American Eye Institute; I don't know exactly what to expect but my eyes (literally) were fixed on a goal, to read, play, dance and move with NOTHING covering them except uh, vitreous fluids. As Dr. Jack Arroyo sat down with me (after like a 100 tests) he pulled out a 3D model of the eye... or eyeball, he took it apart meticulously explaining to me the ins and outs of why my eyesight was how it was, what he was going to do... (Yes, I zoned out) But my mind was otherwise engaged in a more fascinating line of thought. Could science one day be able to explain what exactly makes LOVE go blind??

What happens when we are sideswiped by attraction... normal or fatal in nature? Figuratively speaking, the heart doesn't abide by the more rational senses that differentiate us humans from the rest of the animal kingdom. Falling for someone just happens, whether your heartthrob resembles Mr. Frodo or Mr. Smith. It gets complicated when personal desires and willfulness override the pure feelings of the heart. In other words, instead of seeing what's really in front of you, you WILL to see what you WANT. There is a saying that goes "The one who loves, loses." Before you throw me dagger looks allow me to explain (are you squinting?).

Blinded by love

It is never easy for one to look the truth in the eye. Perhaps your best friend is in a relationship and you have to bite your tongue every time you're asked what you think about his/her newest beau? All of a sudden this soul mate of yours has decided to join forces with a creep from hell. Even if creep from hell has not done anything directly to you, you can swear there is a lingering stench of brimstone when said creep is in the vicinity. I exaggerate of course, but I bet my left eyeball or ventricle that you know exactly what I mean. Your friend is not willing to listen to reason becoming oblivious to the obvious. And you? Have you ever been in love with someone that EVERYONE thought was so wrong for you? Yet you fought for your (ahem) love, and several years later when the dust cleared and the emotional damage is done you sheepishly face your friends steeling yourself for the usual "I told you so's."

Even without family, friends (and even enemies) cajoling us, deep down, we KNOW more about our "better" (or worse) half than we care to admit. We are all victims of double vision; which doesn't mean that we see fantastic things twice but rather we blur our inner sight to see what we desire, leaving us "blind" to a harsher reality. When you have started to replace the person in front of you with the image that you want, then love ceases to exist. You start to make excuses for why he/she treats you this/that way, why he/she does/doesn't do this/that. When this starts to happen, your hearts' eyes need a checkup. But do you really want to see? If not, then you are destined to be nearsighted for a long and even painful time.

We may never have a formal institution or a Dr. Arroyo to fully explain what caused our heart temporary blindness. But we do possess something that can remind us of what may come to pass. Ironically, it's called hindsight, and it's always 20/20.

24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

Sonic Soirees

By Paolo R. Reyes
and Janine Cuenca-Dario

MUSIC, in all its eclectic forms and inflections, is a presence that looms large over our lives. Visitors to our shores from near and far often comment that our sumptuous city is never lacking in aural attractions. From the new breed of bars and clubs that offer everything from reggae to R&B to rock, to the ubiquitous karaoke joints diffused and densely littered in every decrepit and tony quarter of town, music gaily reverberates all year round, leaving none of our nights mundane, dull, or dreary. And as you wend your way through town tonight and in the coming week, it will be no less apparent.

Fête de la Musique, 3 p.m. today

The French Spring season draws to a close today with Fête de la Musique, the international music festival that is celebrated simultaneously in 120 countries around the world. In this much-awaited one-night affair, both artists and listeners come together to proclaim the gift of music.

Tonight, Fête plays host to thousands of Filipino music fans at the El Pueblo Complex grounds and The Podium in Ortigas Center, where seven stages will be set up to accommodate 150 bands from various musical genres: Main Stage (Nagomi El Pueblo Parking), Rock Stage (Racks Parking), Alternative Stage (Podium Driveway), Blues Stage (Sidebar), Jazz Stage (San Mig Pub), Electronica Stage (Pasto), Hip-hop/R&B Stage (Friends). Festivities officially begin at 9 p.m., though bands will start playing as early as 3 p.m. For the complete schedule, call 896-9915 and 890-6095, visit www.alliance.ph/ev-fete, or email fetemanila2005@gmail.com.

Fête de la
MUSIQUE
Manille 18 Juin 2005

Lounge: Season Finale, tonight at 10.

Paseo Uno's Lounge, the popular biweekly party at the Mandarin Oriental poolside, brings its first season to a close tonight after a successful run since September 2004. For the Season Finale, resident DJ Elian Habayeb spins alongside guest DJ GP Reyes, with Egay Caole on live percussions. Open bar from 10 p.m. till midnight. A "big surprise" awaits guests at 2 a.m. Call 750-8888 loc. 2412.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast, tonight at 8.

Atlantis Productions stages the Broadway smash hit musical, Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The play stars KC Concepcion, who will alternate the leading role of Belle with Karel Marquez. The Tony Award-winning production runs at the Meralco Theater until July 17. Tickets at P1,545, P1,391, P1,133, P1,030, P618, and P515. Call 891-9999 or 892-7078.

Sweetspot Music Night: Nykó Macá , June 24

Nykó Macá is a multi-talented, modern performer who takes on classic bossa nova tunes with soul, hip-hop, rhythm and blues, and characteristic Capoeira beats. The result: electro samba for a new generation of listeners who can appreciate her sophisticated musicality and refreshing improvisation. Catch her on Friday, June 24, 9 p.m. at Nicotina, 110 Williams St. corner Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Call 551-7906.

Father's Day Specials

Free Mojito at Teak Bistro, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell (Phone: 898-3365, 898-3429) during the first set of the performance of the Tropikasya Band, 10 p.m. tonight, June 18, the eve of Father's Day.

Prince Of Jaipur at The Fort (Phone: 884-1692 or 94) is offering 25 percent discount only on June 19, 2005, Sunday for both lunch and dinner.

Old Swiss Inn Makati (Phone: 818-0098, 818-8251) is giving free wine for lunch and dinner for fathers and their families while supplies last on June 19, Sunday. They're also offering complimentary Toblerone Chocolate Fondue for every order of their 1 kilo Black Angus Prime Rib Steak.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com. Send your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax 843-2410.

Sick scandal carousel

From page E1

easily sated. *O-ha.*

Harder to ignore

A little dirt is fun once in a while but when intrigue-related tedium occurs on a regular basis, it starts to become unbearable. Like, deeply unbearable. Circling back to Paul Richardson, he offered the following consequence. "When a scandal breaks in the media, the amount of time that has to be given to damage control can absorb most of a politician's attention."

It's getting harder to ignore the fact that there are other things politicians can and should focus on instead of bickering on, say, plastic surgery taxes and this current free-for-all. In fact, students in some Metro Manila universities have taken to the streets to demand that the government spearhead reforms in the country's education system and stop its preoccupation with scandals.

I consider myself a pretty laidback—almost stoic—kinda guy when it comes to politics or politricks, in this case; I mean, I won't go so far as wield a hand-scribbled placard to protest something. It makes me boil, however, that the government's suspected duplicity is compromising my future, not to mention my mellow incense-and-peppermint vibe. Do it till it you bleed, heathens! Sorry, growing up sucks so I just had to shake my fist at the sky. (Note to self: Deal!) But moving on.

It's already difficult to stay unaffected and positive with all the life issues I have to face as a young adult. Unnecessary and sometimes cheesy scandals, whether in politics or entertainment, don't make things easier. Given that, can the older generation still blame us for not keeping up with the news? Is it really our fault if we choose not to care about the government? Are you still with me on this third and last, I promise, rhetorical question?

Appetite for distraction

THESE are tough, disorienting times we live in. I don't know about you, but to keep myself sane, I retreat to the bouncy castle beside the infinity pool of my heart to knock back a Jack and Coke from my sippy cup. The pin drop silence allows me to think about things that really matter, like the Brangelina-Jen-Maddox love rhombus or the direct relation between suicide rates and Coldplay music. Yup, there's a strict only-petty-stuff policy in effect here. Oldies have repeatedly said young peeps are apathetic. Let's, like, show them we totally are! Here are five other things that have been unfairly overlooked because of this dumb wiretap scandal.

1 The "return" of the Backstreet Boys

They've quit playing games and now they're older, wiser and… incredibly passé. I have a strong hunch that "Incomplete," their newest attempt at career resuscitation, will be their last. See, the years haven't been kind to the, uhm, gentlemen. Nick was arrested for driving under the influence, AJ has become a creepy drunk and, after eight years or so in the biz, the three other guys are still near-invisible, personality-less jerk-offs with names I don't even bother to know. Backstreet's back, ALL RIGHT!

2 Michael Jackson's "innocence"

Your favorite high-pitched, crotch-grabbing bed-sharer was cleared of all child molestation charges recently. Funny, I thought a 46-year-old man with a fondness for underage, wheelchair-bound, cancer-stricken boys was shocking, disturbing and perverted. Apparently it's normal, so I guess the same goes for alien lobotomies and sex with hamsters. Lock yourselves up, kids. Now.

3 Britney and Kevin's "reality show"

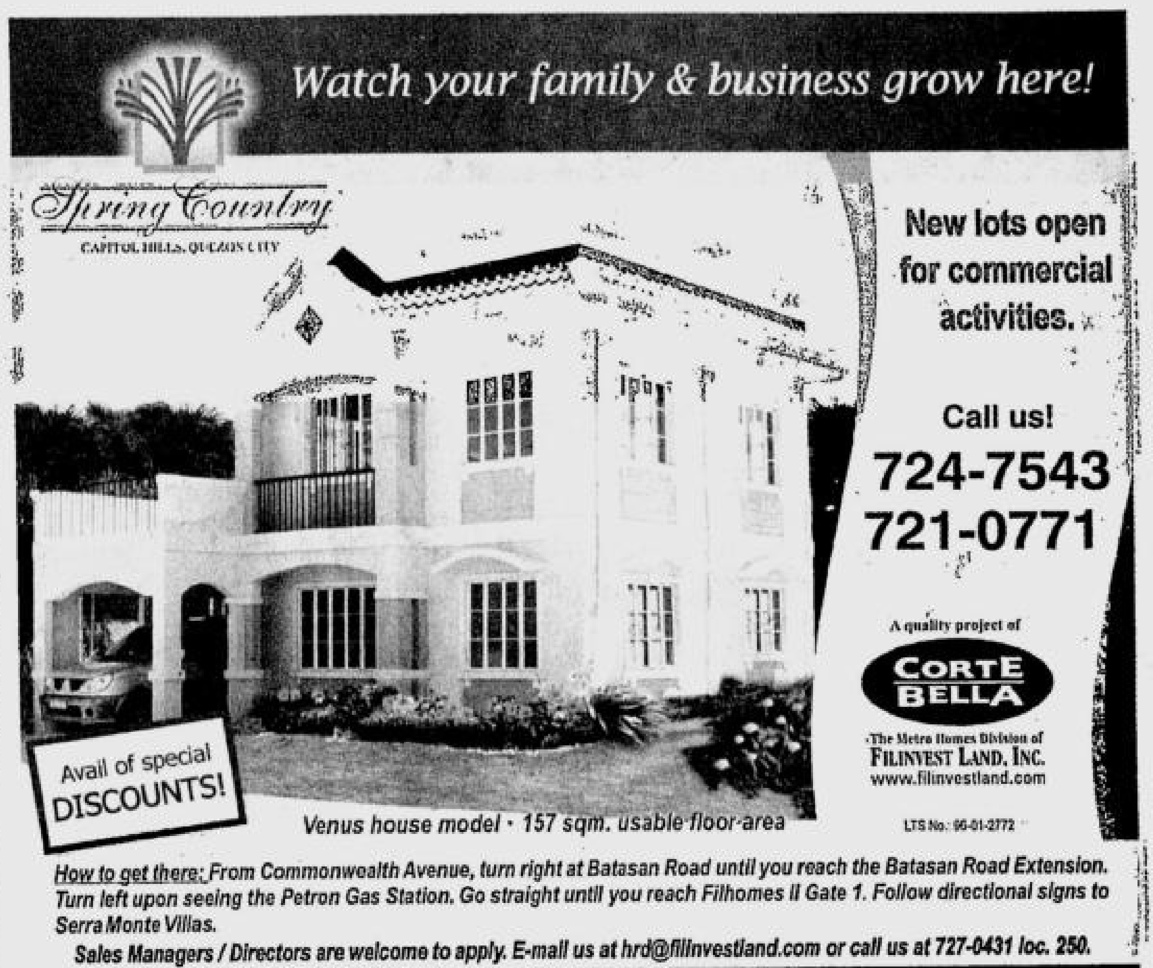
The reality television genre shows no signs of slowing down. Even the Federlines have their own show on the UPN, unironically titled "Britney & Kevin: Chaotic." Reviews haven't been all that stellar, with the Washington Post calling Britney a "smutty-mouthed, pudgy-faced brat" and the show "an execrable mess by absolutely any standard." Call them "The Newlyweirds," but I bet both the critics and the public will change their minds once dorky Britney gives birth to their fetus on the show and finds out that it's—surprise!—Satan.

4 Paris and Paris' "wedding"

Paris Hilton, alleged actress and celebutwat who popularized the hand-on-hip, chin-down, sly-temptress paparazzi pose, is now threatening to breed. Reportedly engaged to Greek shipping heir Paris Latsis, Miss Hilton announced that she is very much in love and that "he's the one." Other sources claim, however, that the only reason she is with this guy is so she scream out her own name in bed.

5 Tom and Katie's "affair"

Ashton Kutcher is the most dangerous thing to happen to women over 40 and Hollywood execs hoped to come up with a female version. But the thing about the Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes public dry-hump is that it's so blatantly PR-driven. Their love is not a natural disaster but one that was intentionally produced to annoy and, in certain cases, induce vomiting. You must do your darndest to stay away from Tom's "War of the Worlds" and his girlfriend-for-hire's "Batman Begins." After rolling your eyes out of their sockets, it's the best thing you can do as part of the movie-going public to teach these media hos a lesson. Hoo-hah!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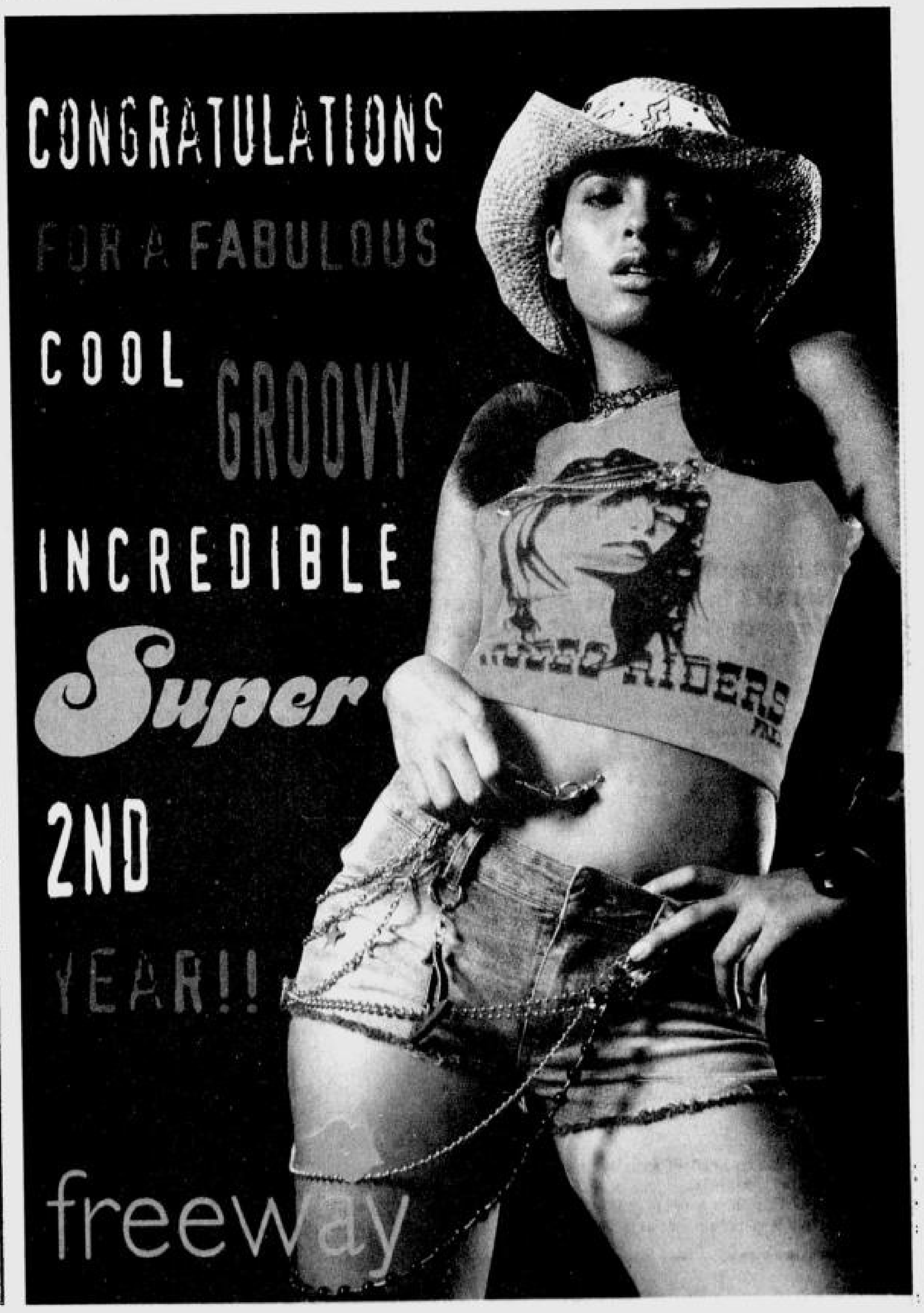

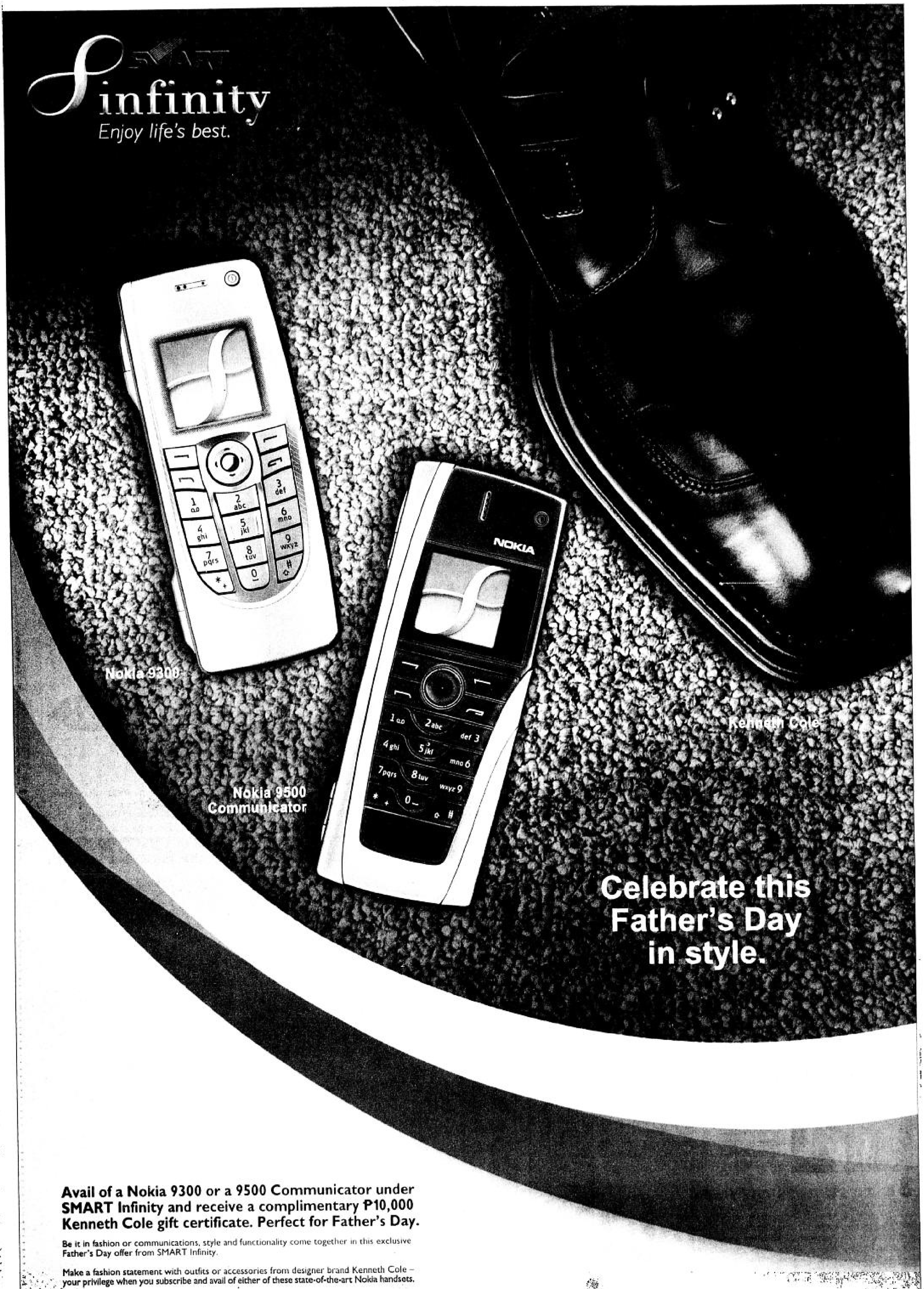

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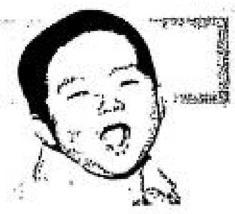
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1554, Series of 2005.

For these queer eyes, the straight guy is the star of the show



Tim Yap

TO BE completely honest, I have only seen one episode of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

But that's all it takes for any viewer to get endeared to the Fab Five protagonists of the hit cable tv show that aims to give the average Joe that much needed makeover. Kyan Douglas, the grooming guru, and Thom Filicia, the design doctor, were in town exactly a week ago to deliver the gospel according to the Fab Two, a partnership between Ayala Land Inc. and Stores Specialists, Inc., both purveyors of style, straight and gay.

We met and chatted over foie gras and sea bass at Makati Shangri-La's Red for lunch right before their scheduled press conference. They were rushing between interviews with Daphne Osena for F and our lunch appointment.

Now this wasn't the queer eye that you'd expect—all flashy and brimming with witticisms that would put Will Truman to shame. These were the Queer Eye guys in the morning, sans any cucumber and eye cream before facing any audience. In short, this was their warm up before going to war. I wiretapped the whole conversation so I have full proof of the proceedings.–

"Do you guys all get along on the set? Are there any catfights that we don't know about?"

"We actually all do get along. We actually have a lot of fun together. Because of the show, we spend a lot of time with each other—Kyan and I are traveling here, Carson and I drove from Boston last weekend," shares Thom.

"I think its one of the reasons why the show has been so successful—and it's really just been luck in casting. We're all very different but we have respect for each other's differences and we get a lot of support from each other," Kyan further affirms their friendship.

Best of both worlds

"Any attraction formed between you guys?" I channel my inner Boy Abunda.

"I don't think so. I think when you work that intensely together, you become brothers before you become lovers, you know. And once you become brothers, its like-eeew! So it's a nice brotherhood I would say," winks Thom.

It's no secret that a lot of women are attracted to gay men. Perhaps it's the unattainability that adds to the attraction. Look around you—as Streisand would query, "Baby, can you hear me?" **So, do women still hit on you?**

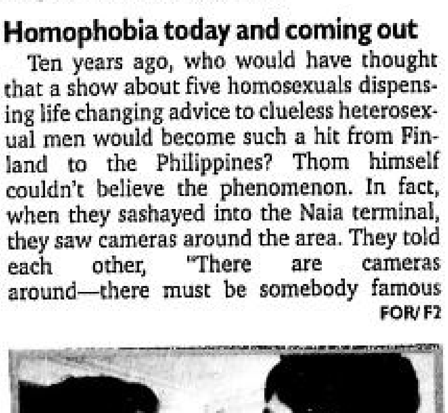
With a coy grin, Kyan admits, "Yeah I like that! I get the best of both worlds. I love getting attention from women." And boy, does HE get attention from both worlds. Wherever we went, women (wo-men, too!) were screaming his name. So much for being below the gay-dar.

Thom has his fairy share of the adulation as well. "They do, they actually do—they keep thinking I'm gonna convert. Now that would be a painful operation. But I love it when women do that. Sometimes they take it very strongly, and I tell them that—'You do know the premise of the show, right?'"

Homophobia today and coming out

Ten years ago, who would have thought that a show about five homosexuals dispensing life changing advice to clueless heterosexual men would become such a hit from Finland to the Philippines? Thom himself couldn't believe the phenomenon. In fact, when they sashayed into the Naia terminal, they saw cameras around the area. They told each other, "There are cameras around—there must be somebody famous

FOR/ F2



JIGS Mayuga of Shu Uemura putting on some powder on Kyan as part of the Queer guys' F exclusive interview

NESTEA
LEMON
Iced Tea
100% VITAMIN C
MOM'S
HOUSE MIX
RULE #42
PREPARE A PITCHER BEFORE THE MOVIE.
NESTEA
Plunge into the MIX
All-out refreshment with 100% RDA Vitamin C in every ice-cold pitcher. Make sure you don't run out, mom!

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LOUIS VUITTON PHILIPPINES! Designed in 1901 and still part of the collection, the canvas and leather Steamer bag is timeless and the logo resembles the Philippine flag

HERITAGE PLUS. Tim Yap sandwiched by Lou and George Vuitton at the Louis Vuitton Asnieres workshop

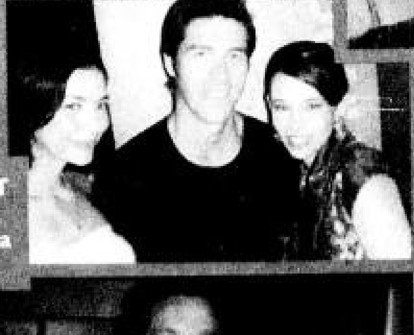
BAGGING IT. Every detail is painstakingly hand stitched

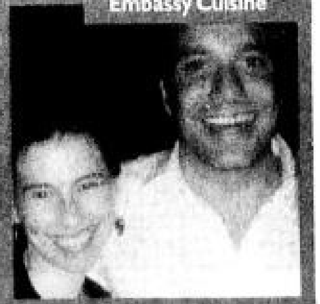
OUTSIDE Louis Vuitton's house in Asnieres, France

ONLY the best raw materials, the most supple leathers make it

QUEER EYE WITH STRAIGHT FOLKS. Nickie Yap, Thom Filicia, Kathy Yap and Mike Huang at Embassy Super Club

SHU PINK FOUR. With Tina Tinio, Xeng Zulueta and JM Rodriguez at Embassy Cuisine


WITH STRAIGHT girls Amanda Griffin and Monica Olbes


DESIGN doctor Thom Filicia with Nicole Fandiño

QUEENS AT THE VIP ROOM. Tweetie Gonzalez, Barni Escaler and Katrina Gonzalez

F-ING THE QUEER EYE GUY. Daphne Oseña-Paez after her F interview showing tomorrow over Studio 23

For these queer eyes, the

From page F1

here!"

So famous are they that everywhere they went, people elbowed their way to having a photograph with them. "We're like Baywatch in Germany!" said Thom, as partyphiles approached him inside the VIP room at Embassy Super Club.

Seeing how the room (and any venue whatsoever—from Embassy Club to Cuisine to Government to the NBC Tent—whew!) worked around them, **I asked them if they still encounter homophobia in this day and age?**

"Yeah, without a doubt. With the straight guys on the show, not as much. There have been a couple of guys that have been a little stand-offish especially in the beginning. There was this guy who had a motorcycle business—he didn't want Carson to get too close to him," confessed Kyan.

I asked Thom about his coming out story.

"Back in college, I was in a fraternity, and I told my fraternity brothers. The cute fraternity brothers were my best friends. And I told two girls, my other two best friends. And it was like, okay-big secret! And they were like, 'yeah duh, we knew!' So it was no big deal."

"Cut to two years later, I told my parents in New York City. We were going out to dinner and I told them. And it was a really amazing experience, my parents handled it—I hate to use the word 'handle it,' but after telling them they were really great about it. They were always close to me. I've spent holidays with my boyfriends and my family—different boyfriends—and they've just been always supportive, which is really great. I was really lucky that my parents were just cool with it from the beginning.

"It was a very difficult thing for me to tell them because even though I knew that my parents were going to be cool with it, it was a personal thing I was dealing with, it was hard, and part of the process of coming out is not just coming out to people but actually coming to terms with your life and your lifestyle," shares Thom.

Wow Philippines!

Shifting from Gore Vidal serious to liver busting hilarious in the snap of a manicured finger, we hit it off quite well that I volunteered to be their unofficial nocturnal navigator around the city, feeling Philippine 'ham-bassador,' taking them from one hot spot to another. If we only had more time, I would have brought them around the islands—but that's another story.

"In the States, I use a lot of stuff that's made in the Philippines and I love it! The aesthetic of it, the craftsmanship is amazing. I'm hoping to come back and ac
garding furniture.
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Craig, I called him
coming back to th
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from the design ico

Kyan shares this
pines with Thom.

"My one regret is
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What George Vuitton did for his dad Louis

By Tim Yap

SO YOU think Louis Vuitton is this megalomaniac who loves seeing his initials all over anything that spells luxury? Guess again.

Intrigued by brands and what makes them, I journeyed towards Asnieres (pronounced an-yer), an inner suburb in Paris where Louis Vuitton transformed trunk making into a noble craft. This place is at the core of the Louis Vuitton legend—the 4,000 sq m lot houses his mansion, workshop space and museum where a vast collection of trunks and monogrammed pieces of dreams are on display.

"The story continues," shares Regis Duchene, director of the site, who guided me on this tour of heritage with Jun Fujiwara of the LV Paris office. The tale starts with tea at the living room of the Vuittons, where I learn that Louis Vuitton, age 14 left his little village of Anchay and set off for Paris.

Legend has it that he didn't have a penny to his name, so he traveled on foot, which of course took him a year. In the span of that time, he did odd jobs while perfecting his desired craft of being a master woodworker—carving beech and poplar wood. By 1837, he reached his destination, and started to make a name as a craftsman trunk maker.

Trunk making and travel

One must remember that during that era, traveling was very much an adventure as the world was an unexplored territory. Elegant women went around in giant ballgowns with horse hair petticoats (whereas now they only wear petticoats) and packing these creations was even much more of a challenge. Later on, Louis Vuitton became even more famous after he was chosen by Empress Eugenie as her favorite specialist. By 1854, he had founded his own company in Paris—trunkmaking and travel was never the same again.

Passing through the courtyard where the images of three generations of Vuittons are displayed in mini Grand Canyon busts—Louis, George and Gaston, I traipse into the workshop space, a four level area where everything from your LV canvass to your damier is made. As in everything—every nook and cranny of a Louis Vuitton piece of luggage is painstakingly hand-stitched, embroidered, painted, signed, sealed and delivered to perfection.

I never quite fully understood the meaning of this kind of luxury. These days of masstige (a phenomenon based on the words "mass" and "prestige") has everyone clamoring for luxury products—from fancy pieces of furniture to the cologne you spray on to the diamond studded watch you are wearing—it all has a tag with the word "luxury" on it—some of them without any true heritage, and some, even mass produced in factories in China.

But what I was seeing before me was exquisite quality. With roots in traditional crafts, it can be spotted in the smallest detail—what kind of thread was used in stitching, the suppleness of the leather, the clunking sound when you close the cover of the trunk. When you achieve perfection with an item, there's this feeling of a certain sense of refinement.

On principle, this kind of luxury should last you your entire lifetime and beyond—its the kind of item you know your reltives will fight over when your will is read out.

Tradition and innovation

To answer the question I posted on the opening paragraph, I check the records and realize that Louis Vuitton passed away during the year 1892 and the first monogram canvass was made 1896—designed by his son George Vuitton as a tribute to his deceased father, the inventor and innovator of the modern luggage as we see it today.

Ironically, Louis Vuitton never saw the monogram with his initials that was born out of a love of a son for his father. The original Vuitton logo was a rectangle with a V on its center, dividing the space into three equal parts of red, white and blue. Gasp! That's the Philippine flag without the sun and the stars!

George Vuitton, as early as 1896 had to fight off imitators. As such, he always had to be one step ahead, for the best way to wage war is through innovation. That's always been the company's guiding principle, 150 plus years hence. Since we're on the subject of history, lets now do mathematics. Think x+y=success. X=Tradition, Y=Innovation.

So the next time you see the logo, try not to think of Jennifer Lopez or even Uma Thurman (though its hard not to) or your LV obsessed friend. Think of a man who wanted to revolutionize the way people traveled, and thus succeeded in creating an empire based on the highest levels of perfection and prestige, giving birth to a whole new generation of luxury lovers.

---

straight guy . . .

ually talk here re-
m definitely com-
told my boyfriend
and said, "We're
islands—they've
ere!" This coming
himself.
ove for the Philip-

hat we're here long
how beautiful it is.
and when we flew
how beautiful—the
we were flying over
to go diving."
to hear all these
our country com-
rs of A-list aesthet-
we always think
ed a makeover.
over industry that
e started carving
hese, modern-day
ir share of horror
craft. "They're all
y, although there
ones that were re-
lid a guy in Staten
borough in New
ed for a baseball
blems was that he
pedicure. When I
smelled so bad. I
d to put out air
just smelled like
sour milk." Even when he's talking about a sour experience, Kyan still looks as good (the ladies and other gentlemen say even better) in person.

A matter of self expression

When you guys do a makeover, what's the first thing you look at and what is your process in going through it? I inquire faster than a speeding shopper during Hong Kong sale season.

Thom said, "That the personality of the straight guy is captured, that it speaks about what he is, where he's from, and what he's about—because that's important to me as a person."

For Kyan, "Its a question of whether they are living to their fullest potential, if they look their best, if they feel their best? Are they being self expressed?"

Kyan goes on to say, "It's about feeling good, looking good, being a good person. And so when I approach somebody for a makeover, there were times when I would prefer to cut somebody's hair much shorter or take off the beard altogether. And then I get to know who they are—and if a guy is really attached to his hair, to his beard, he's not very comfortable in his skin if you take them away, then I don't think it's a good idea to force a look on him."

Growing up gay

"I think you have to find a way to help someone be the best they can be, look as good as they can but still respect who they are. Everyone is gonna look differently and that's the beauty of life, that we're all different," said makeover maven Kyan, in celebration of diversity.

I inquired about celebrities' looks that he'd love to play with. "You know, I have to say I don't really have an interest in making over celebrities, because they have money, they have the resources, and the fun in doing the show is working with guys that really don't have a clue—empowering them. They don't know who to turn to, but they're interested—and that's the part that I really like.

He goes on to share, "When you grow up gay, even as a little kid, you know you're different. And so you're approach to the world is—I'm this way, and the rest of the world is another way—there's a sense of feeling alienated in some way and I learned that its okay to be gay. Just because they're straight, it doesn't mean we can't share a sense of brotherhood and love."

After my Queer Eye encounter, I realized that I received a makeover of my own. I walked in half expecting cosmocrats in crisp suits exchanging snappy homocabulary. Listening to them, I got straight answers. It wasn't about being gay or being straight—it was about being yourself, only better.

Cheers, queers!

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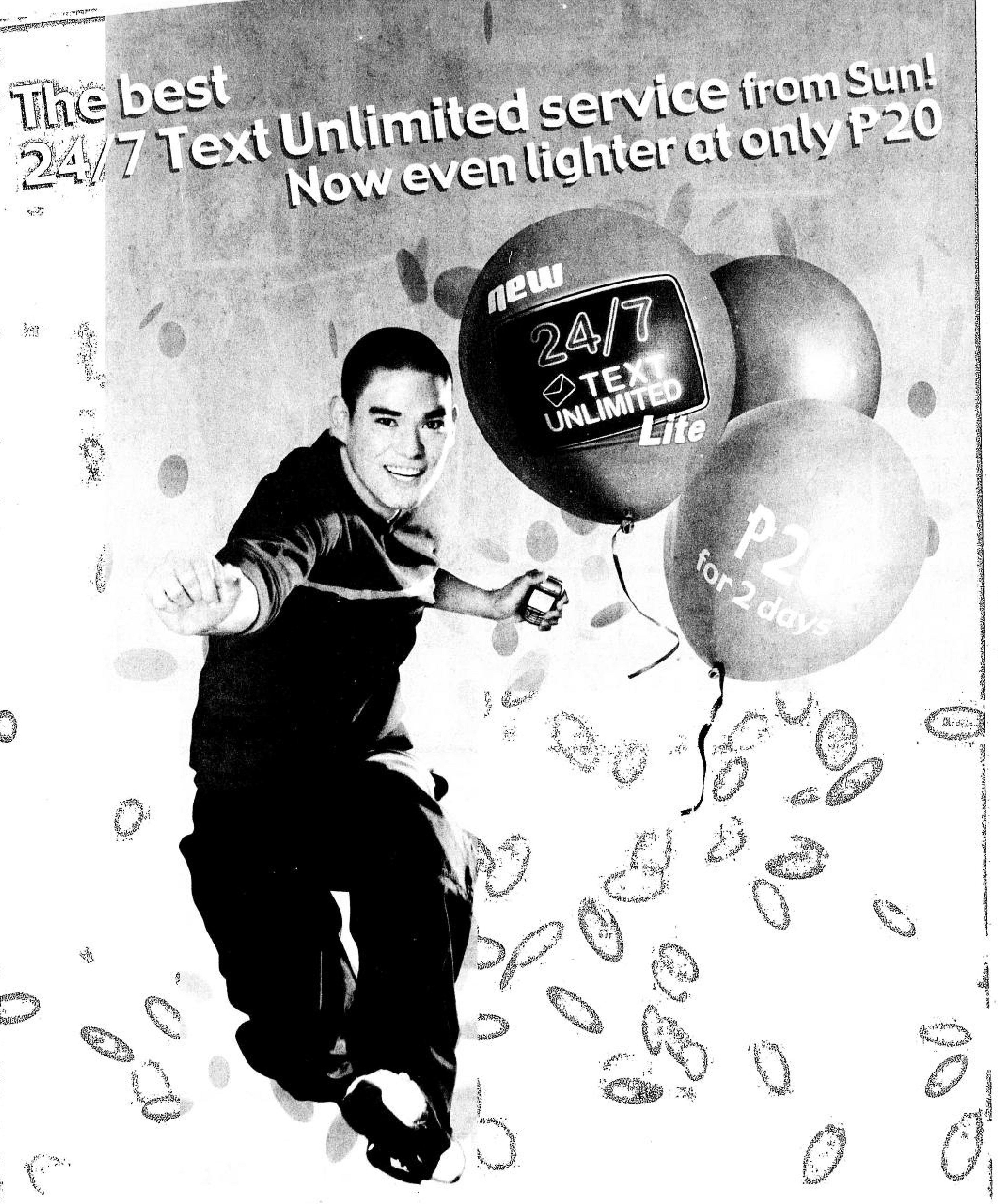

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- After texting the keywords to 247, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Once you receive this, just load up by doing the following:
  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

    OR
  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

  Note: For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string.
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SABINA Natasha Barretto with proud parents Claudine Barretto and Raymart Santiago

AT SABINA'S CHRISTENING. Coney Reyes gives her blessing

Family guy

By Tim Yap

THEY say that you're never prepared for fatherhood until you first hold your baby in your arms.

For Raymart Santiago, fatherhood came in an instant, in the form of Sabina Natasha Barretto, the adopted child of Claudine Barretto.

Two weeks ago, Sabina turned one year old and was welcomed to the Christian world. Raymart and Claudine took turns in making Sabina feel at home in her new world, as they showered her with as much parental love as they can possibly give.

Most of us know Raymart as an action star, but that whole persona disappears when he's with Sabina. At the ballroom of Crowne Plaza, a giant collage of photos formed an image of Raymart and Claudine holding Sabina. A giant slide, giant Barney cake with her name formed the giant party that was held in her honor.

Hair twirling together

Claudine, who coincidentally plays an adopted child in her latest film smiles as she shares, "He's really *malambing* as a dad to Sabina. They go out on dates, they go to National Bookstore together, Eastwood, and do the groceries together. Sabina just had her haircut from the barber shop with Raymart!"

"He also puts Sabina to sleep. Recently I was in Cannes so they got to hang out more. Raymart has this thing where he twirls his hair to sleep. Now Sabina does the same," muses Claudine.

"They play rough—she starts screaming and laughing whenever she sees Raymart—she knows its playtime with dad."

Beyond playtime with Sabina, Raymart also prepares her milk, changes Sabina's diapers and brings her to the little gym.

"He's so hands on as a dad that he can manage without a *yaya*," says Claudine.

FAMILY PHOTO. Charlene and Aga Muhlach with their twins and Bernard Cloma

SIS STYLE. Marjorie Barretto

WITH the other men in her life, Randy Ortiz and Ronald Pineda

MARTINEZ sibs Alfonso and Alyanna

LUCY and her diamond, Julianna

B.PUNCH IT. Manny Pacquiao and Rowell Santiago

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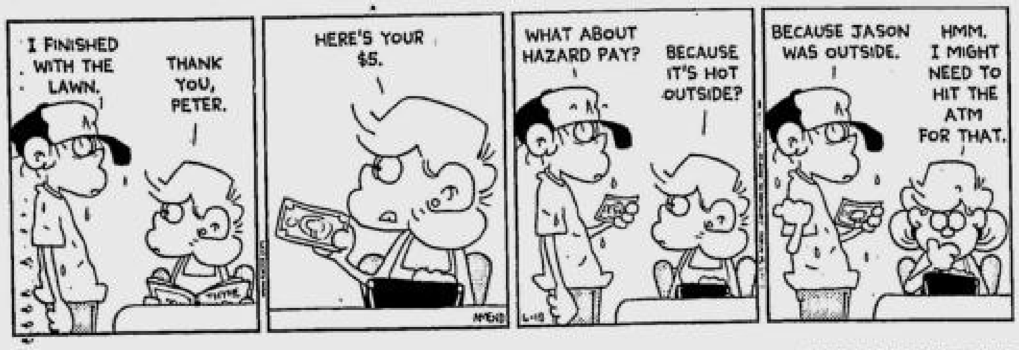
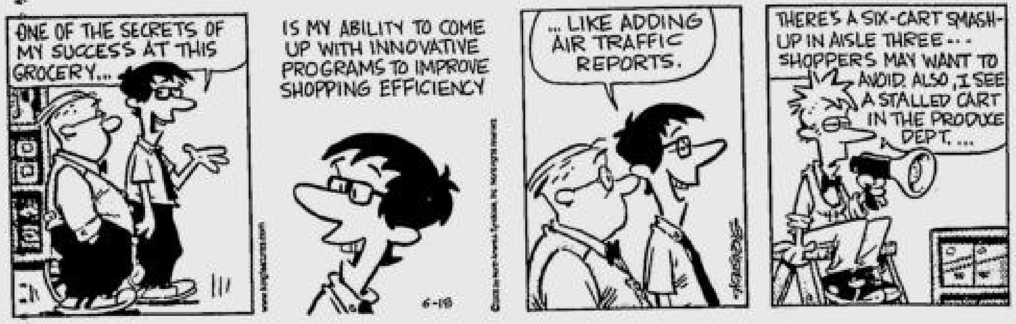
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I FINISHED WITH THE LAWN.
THANK YOU, PETER.
HERE'S YOUR $5.
WHAT ABOUT HAZARD PAY?
BECAUSE IT'S HOT OUTSIDE?
BECAUSE JASON WAS OUTSIDE.
HMM. I MIGHT NEED TO HIT THE ATM FOR THAT.

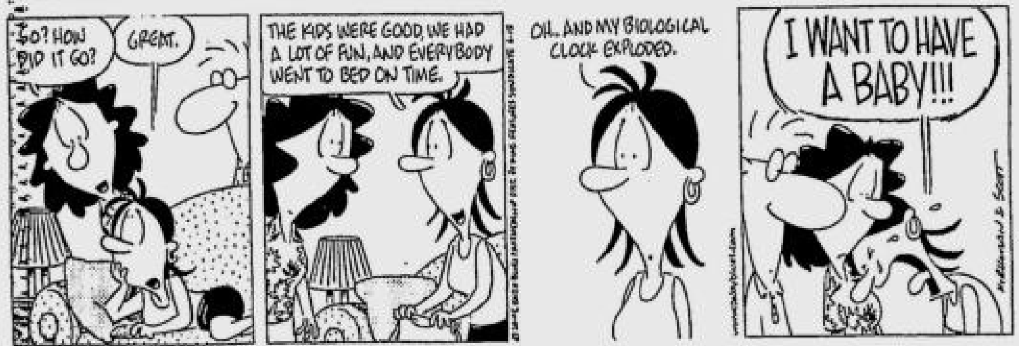
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ONE OF THE SECRETS OF MY SUCCESS AT THIS GROCERY...
IS MY ABILITY TO COME UP WITH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE SHOPPING EFFICIENCY
... LIKE ADDING AIR TRAFFIC REPORTS.
THERE'S A SIX-CART SMASH-UP IN AISLE THREE... SHOPPERS MAY WANT TO AVOID. ALSO, I SEE A STALLED CART IN THE PRODUCE DEPT. ...

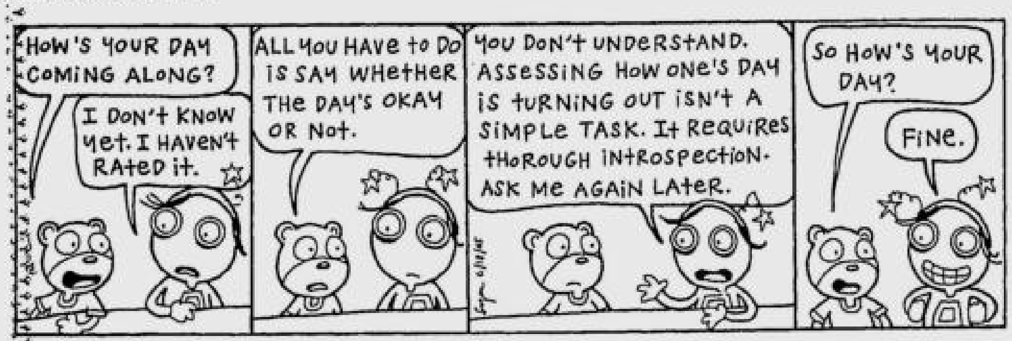
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO? HOW DID IT GO?
GREAT.
THE KIDS WERE GOOD, WE HAD A LOT OF FUN, AND EVERYBODY WENT TO BED ON TIME.
OH. AND MY BIOLOGICAL CLOCK EXPLODED.
I WANT TO HAVE A BABY!!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


How's your day coming along?
I don't know yet. I haven't rated it.
All you have to do is say whether the day's okay or not.
You don't understand. Assessing how one's day is turning out isn't a simple task. It requires thorough introspection. Ask me again later.
So how's your day?
Fine.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are lively, interested in many things and interesting to others. You often work behind the scenes to accomplish great deeds. You have a good sense of things in terms of business and finance. You manage your money well. You also have a lot of personal charm. Work hard in the year ahead for rewards in 2006-07.
Birthdate of: Isabella Rossellini, actress; Paul McCartney, musician; Blake Shelton, country-music singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have an opportunity today to see how to compromise or to work with the values of somebody else, even if you don't agree with these values. After all, some like bread; some like potatoes; some like rice.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Someone rather unusual or bizarre can teach you something today. Be open to a passing encounter with a real character. Refrain from making judgments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Surprising news from a parent or a boss encourages you. You see the humanity of this person. You might also see better ways of doing your job. (Always handy.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Someone from another culture or another country is quite intriguing today. You could develop a crush on this person. At the very least, you will be entertained, and you'll probably learn something new.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): New technology might be introduced at home that helps you do things more easily. On the other hand, you might bring home modern art or some weird gizmo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're bursting with bright, new, unusual ideas today. Because of this, you might meet someone new as well. Expect changes in your daily routine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Impulse purchases please you today. Nevertheless, keep an eye on your money. You might find some; you might lose some!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel youthful, rebellious and rather saucy today. It's a pretty high-energy day! You're full of courage and eagerness for adventure! ("Fresh horses! And whiskey for my men!")

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Sometimes ideas need to cook in the back of your mind. That's why they pop up at the strangest times. Today might be one of those strange times when unusual ideas come to you out of the blue. (Write them down.)

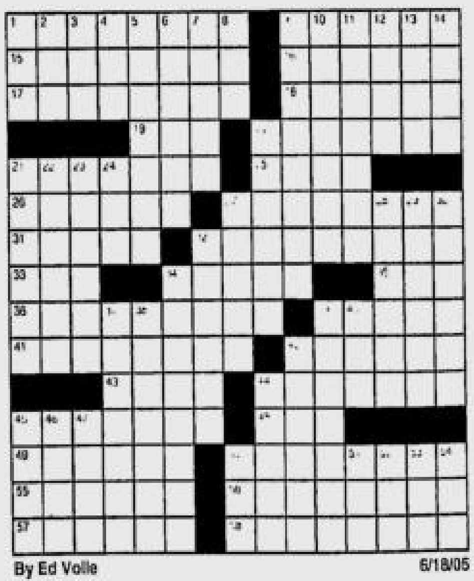
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): A friend might surprise you today. On the other hand, you might meet someone who's a bit kooky and bizarre. Either way, it's an interesting day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Impress people in authority by suggesting something unusual today. You do have these ideas that you think are improvements—why not speak up? Others will listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do anything that is out of the ordinary today. Shake up your routine. Learn something new. Visit different places.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Winnipeg's place
9 Means of entry
15 Calculated a mean
16 Baby bed
17 Kneecaps
18 Mack or Sellecca
19 Do-over service
20 Thingamabobs
21 Fixes
25 Old Norse character
26 Wears away
27 Lacking expression
31 Sheet changers
32 Lowest female voice
33 Dunderhead
34 Fills to capacity
35 Feel poorly
36 Faints dead away
39 Spicy dish
41 Indispensable qualities
42 Lamented loudly
43 Sure thing
44 Like a family of girls
45 Ready, as an oven
48 Gold quantity
49 Everett or Murdoch
50 Love and kisses or see ya later!
55 Actress Renee
56 Frozen area
57 Plural of Mr.
58 Designed anew



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
6/18/05

DOWN
1 AAA handout
2 Gardner of "The Killers"
3 Place to surf
4 Dander
5 Calculates a score
6 Flirtatious eyers
7 Throbs
8 Madison Ave. output
9 Bank listings
10 Bing, e.g.
11 Unit of luminous intensity
12 Poet St. Vincent Millay
13 Lost traction
14 Goes steady with
20 Monotonous talker
21 New version of an old movie
22 Obliterates
23 Remains in equilibrium
24 Tack on
27 Shopping bags
28 One of Jerry's clique
29 Steps over fences
30 Cubes and spheres, e.g.
32 Interviewer Dick
34 Plato's teacher
37 Lascivious guys
38 Lip-curler
39 Competition
40 Actor Holbrook
42 Clement Clark and Henry
44 Elbow room
45 Bayswater baby buggy
46 Unmannerly
47 Collection of primitive poetry
50 Evergreen tree
51 How come?
52 Slippery catch
53 Grant's adversary
54 Former Ford model

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	N	S	■	C	A	C	A	O	■	C	H	E	F
E	X	I	T	■	E	M	O	R	Y	■	L	Y	R	E
T	I	T	O	■	M	A	M	I	E	■	E	D	G	Y
H	A	R	P	I	E	S	B	A	Z	A	A	R	■	■
S	L	O	G	A	N	S	■	■	■	C	R	A	M	P
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	T	E	R	I	■	N	E	A
A	S	A	P	■	■	C	O	N	A	N	■	G	O	T
T	H	E	S	P	O	U	T	I	N	G	N	E	W	S
O	E	R	■	R	A	T	E	D	■	■	E	A	S	Y
N	E	O	■	I	T	E	M	■	J	A	B	■	■	■
E	P	S	O	M	■	■	■	T	E	R	R	A	I	N
■	■	P	O	P	U	L	A	R	S	E	A	N	C	E
L	E	A	H	■	K	A	R	A	T	■	S	T	I	R
O	N	C	E	■	E	V	A	D	E	■	K	I	E	V
U	S	E	D	■	S	A	B	E	R	■	A	C	R	E

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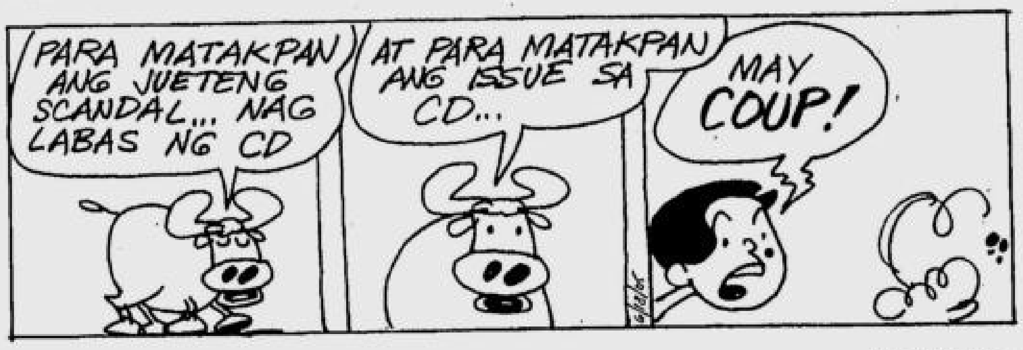
6/18/05

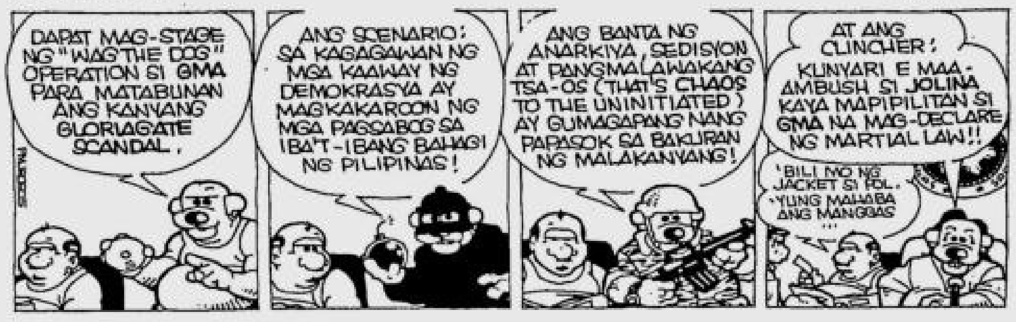
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PARA MATAKPAN ANG JUETENG SCANDAL... NAG LABAS NG CD
AT PARA MATAKPAN ANG ISSUE SA CD...
MAY COUP!

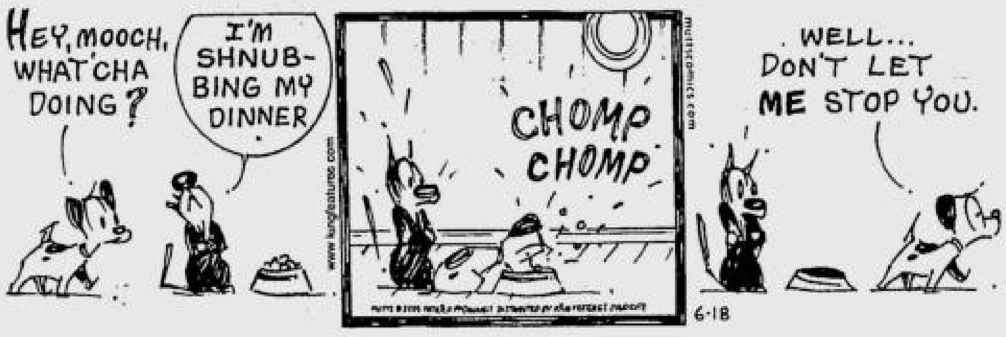
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT MAG-STAGE NG "WAG THE DOG" OPERATION SI GMA PARA MATABUNAN ANG KANYANG GLORIAGATE SCANDAL.
ANG SCENARIO: SA KAGAGAWAN NG MGA KAAWAY NG DEMOKRASYA AY MAGKAKAROON NG MGA PAGSABOG SA IBA'T-IBANG BAHAGI NG PILIPINAS!
ANG BANTA NG ANARKIYA, SEDISYON AT PANGMALAWAKANG TSA-OS (THAT'S CHAOS TO THE UNINITIATED) AY GUMAGAPANG NANG PAPASOK SA BAKURAN NG MALAKANYANG!
AT ANG CLINCHER: KUNYARI E MAA-AMBUSH SI JOLINA KAYA MAPIPILITAN SI GMA NA MAG-DECLARE NG MARTIAL LAW!!
'BILI MO NG JACKET SI FOL. 'YUNG MAHABA ANG MANGGAS ...

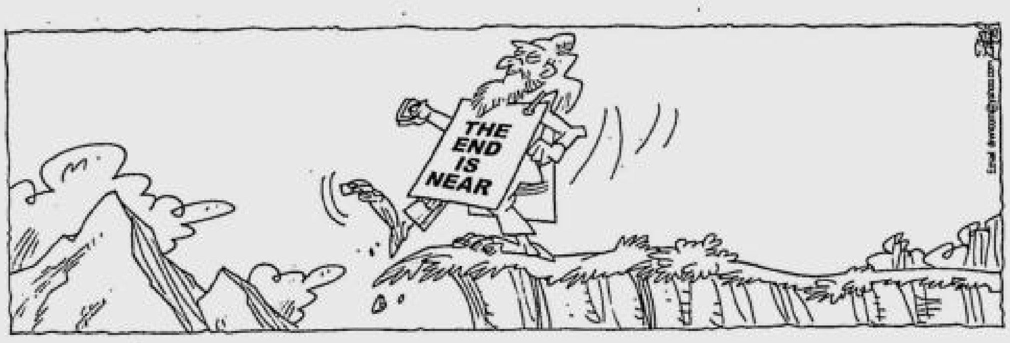
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, MOOCH, WHAT'CHA DOING?
I'M SHNUBBING MY DINNER
CHOMP CHOMP
WELL... DON'T LET ME STOP YOU.
6-18

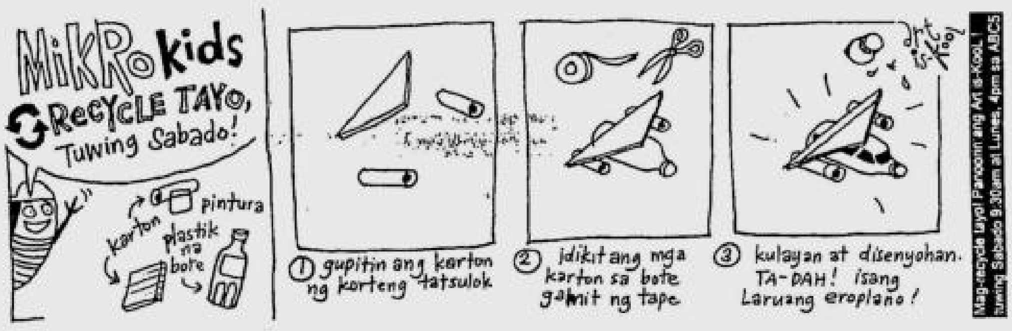
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE END IS NEAR

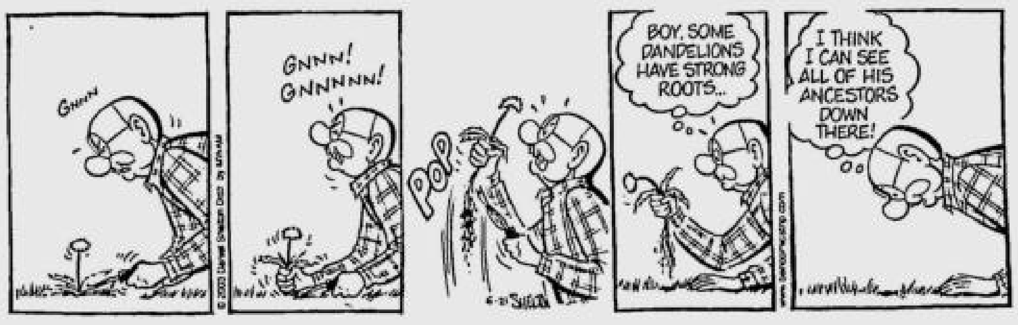
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
karton
pintura
plastik na bote
① gupitin ang karton ng korteng tatsulok
② idikit ang mga karton sa bote gamit ng tape
③ kulayan at disenyohan. TA-DAH! isang Laruang eroplano!

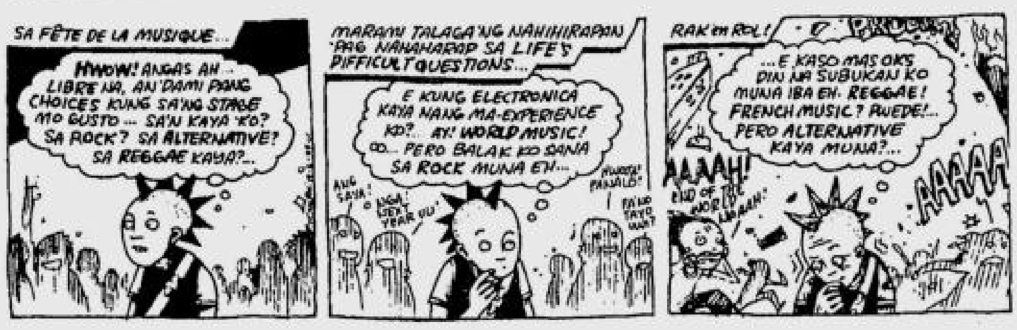
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GNNN
GNNN! GNNNNN!
POP
BOY, SOME DANDELIONS HAVE STRONG ROOTS...
I THINK I CAN SEE ALL OF HIS ANCESTORS DOWN THERE!

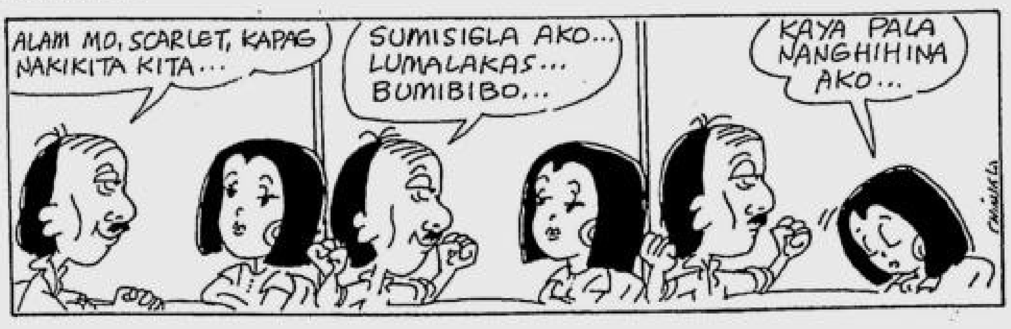
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE...
HWOW! ANGAS AH... LIBRE NA, AN'DAMI PANG CHOICES KUNG SA'NG STAGE MO GUSTO... SA'N KAYA 'KO? SA ROCK? SA ALTERNATIVE? SA REGGAE KAYA?...
MARAMI TALAGA'NG NAHIHIRAPAN 'PAG NAHAHARAP SA LIFE'S DIFFICULT QUESTIONS...
E KUNG ELECTRONICA KAYA NANG MA-EXPERIENCE KO?.. AY! WORLD MUSIC! OO... PERO BALAK KO SANA SA ROCK MUNA EH...
RAK en ROL!
...E KASO MAS OKS DIN NA SUBUKAN KO MUNA IBA EH. REGGAE! FRENCH MUSIC? PUEDE!... PERO ALTERNATIVE KAYA MUNA?...
AAAAH!
AAAA

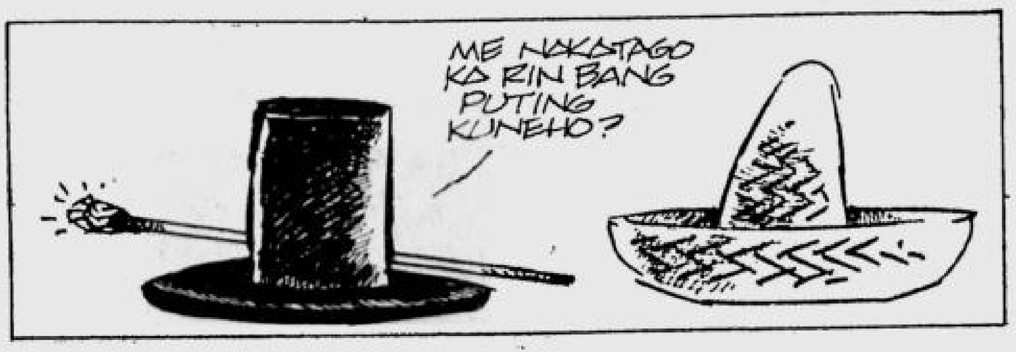
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, SCARLET, KAPAG NAKIKITA KITA...
SUMISIGLA AKO... LUMALAKAS... BUMIBIBO...
KAYA PALA NANGHIHINA AKO...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ME NAKATAGO KA RIN BANG PUTING KUNEHO?

In the flesh

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

WHY DO we get goosebumps?

They just creep up when you least expect it. It happens when I hear a certain song that can tear a hole in the fabric of time to allow me to relive a moment. It happens when I chance upon a line in a film or a book that seems to have been written solely for me. It happens when I hear mysterious, unexplainable stories about ghosts, UFOs, and the Bermuda Triangle. They happen for a reason, because our memories are tied to our emotions, which trigger our bodies to release adrenaline and endorphins into our system. Our brain then responds to that hormonal rush by giving us the bumps on our flesh.

It happened at the stroke of midnight last Saturday, positioned as always in the front of the DJ booth at Ministry of Sound's Indepen-Dance event at the NBC Tent. Surrounded by the usual insane, trip-happy phalanx, I was caught off guard with a deafening silence that ensued for a breath hold. The Swedish DJ Axwell, playing God for the night at the turntables, had turned the volume down and motioned to the spotlight illuminating the side stage.

About as out of place as a polar bear in the tropics, there stood a rocker in a rave. He was lanky and long-haired, admittedly resembling Bo Bice in the smoky shadows. Looking as cool as hell with this electric guitar, he started to strum a tune I've known all my life. Then a woman on the other side of the stage started to belt out the words of the song, words that reminded me of what I was supposed to be celebrating at the toll of that midnight hour. My freedom. "*...ang mamatay nang dahil sa 'yo,*" she sang.

Then there came the goosebumps.

The crowd was driven to a fever as the confetti rained down on us all. I turned to my friend who was likewise smoothing out his bumpy arm. "*Nakakakilabot,*" he said.

A passing thought

And so for a moment before the thunderous house music rushed back on cue, I thought about how so many young people today are desperate for something to be proud of, something to cheer about in the darkness. We want to be proud to be Filipinos, we want to revel in our freedom, we want to feel a rush when we see the yellow sun and stars unfurl, we want to believe what we have been told time and again—that we *are* the hope last released from the Pandora's box of crap opened by the ol' gangsters that run our country. And yet here we are once again on the edge of our seats wondering whether there will be yet another coup, another military takeover, or (God help us all) yet another Edsa freakin' revolution. So I dare pose the question—are we really free?

Skipping town

The other night, while kicking back a few drinks with an old college friend, we ended up talking about how practically our whole college *barkada* had now become part of the dramatis personae of the Filipino diaspora. Indeed, at some point after school, our paths diverged, and those led to different continents, different destinies all over the world. They pursued higher studies, found jobs that paid them well, and for some, adopted that irksome twaang.

For most of them, coming back to the "PI" is not even on the agenda. And it's not just my circle of friends either. Practically half my family had happily transplanted themselves abroad long ago, and have many times asked me why I haven't followed suit. I don't consider them less patriotic for the choices they made, God knows that I've fantasized many times (especially in insanity-inducing traffic) of just packing my bags and leaving for any remote village in South America just to escape from the frustration of just reading the headlines each day.

I told my old buddy at the bar in between swigs of rum cokes, "sometimes I wonder why we chose to stick around." How tragic it is that staying in our own country has become synonymous with sacrifice.

Yet in spite of the constant noise, the darkness, the distractions, the uncertainty that is all part of living on this side of the planet, you just have to hold on to the belief that you actually *can* do something to make a change. I may be foolishly looking for those surprising moments that come few and far between—like that rock song of our national anthem in the middle of a rave triggering a collective expression of youthful pride.

What I wish for is a different kind of revolution. A revolution in our hearts and minds fomented by a real, cheese-free pride, respect, and the belief that only when we do our best, we instigate real change.

My old college buddy took a sip of his San Mig Light and said to me, "I'm still here because even if I get depressed about what's happening, I know that I can do something in my own way."

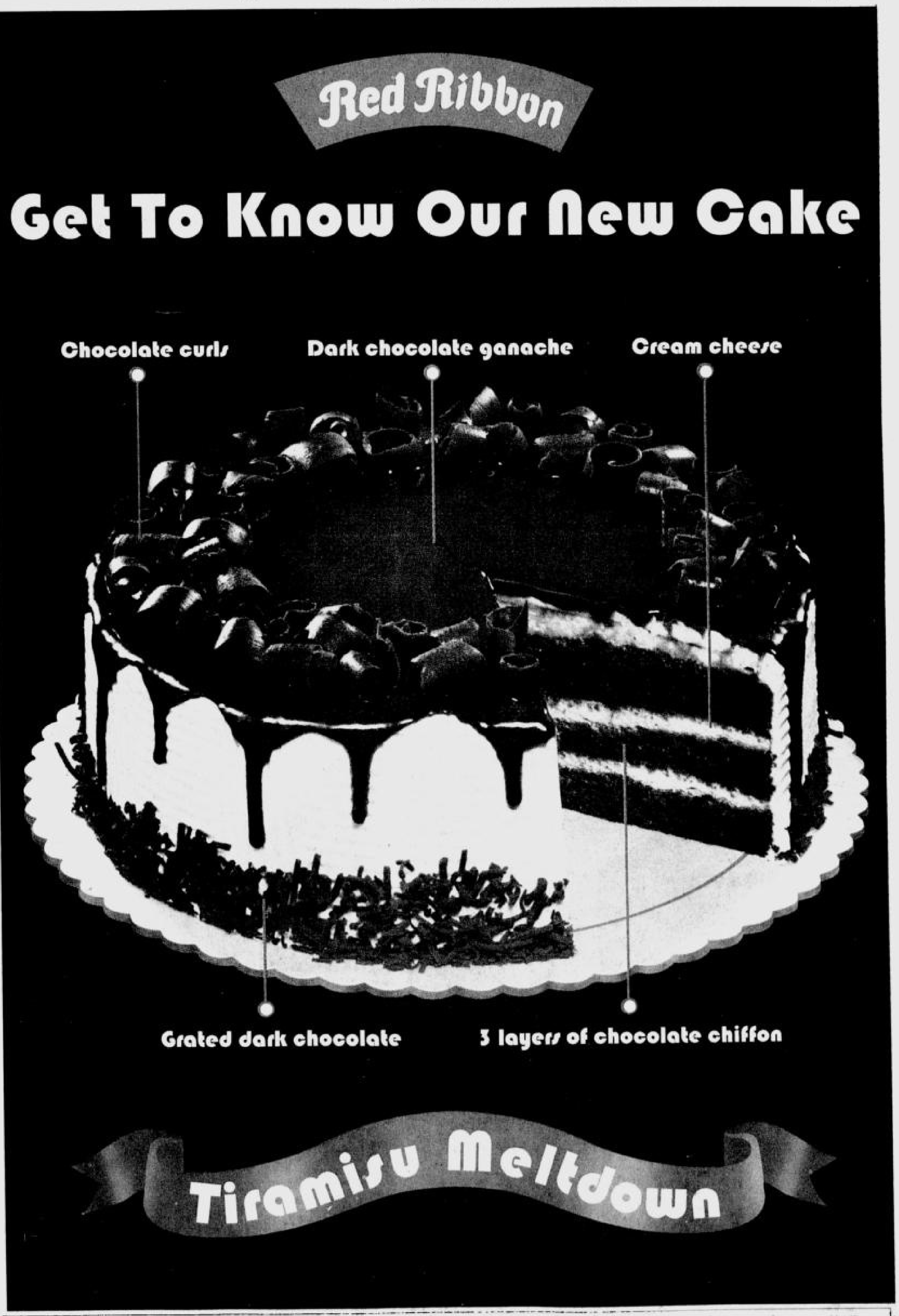
Then the strangest thing happened. The band playing at the bar started playing a familiar tune—it was Joe Satriani's classic "Always with me, Always with you" from his "Surfing with the Alien" album. I was caught completely off guard when the song suddenly merged to a familiar tune I've known all my life.

Then came the goosebumps.

They happen for a reason, and I know, I just know that I have to do something about it.

> What I wish for is a different kind of revolution. A revolution in our hearts and minds fomented by a real, cheese-free pride, respect, and the belief that only when we do our best, we instigate real change

A ROCKIN' midnight surprise at the BigFish Independence Day party



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2805, Series of 2005.

In what is probably the only place
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a million and one stories to tell rises
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that is exclusively called Greenbelt.
It's a place where you wake up
and discover that you simply have
a new story to tell everyday.

Your story begins at the
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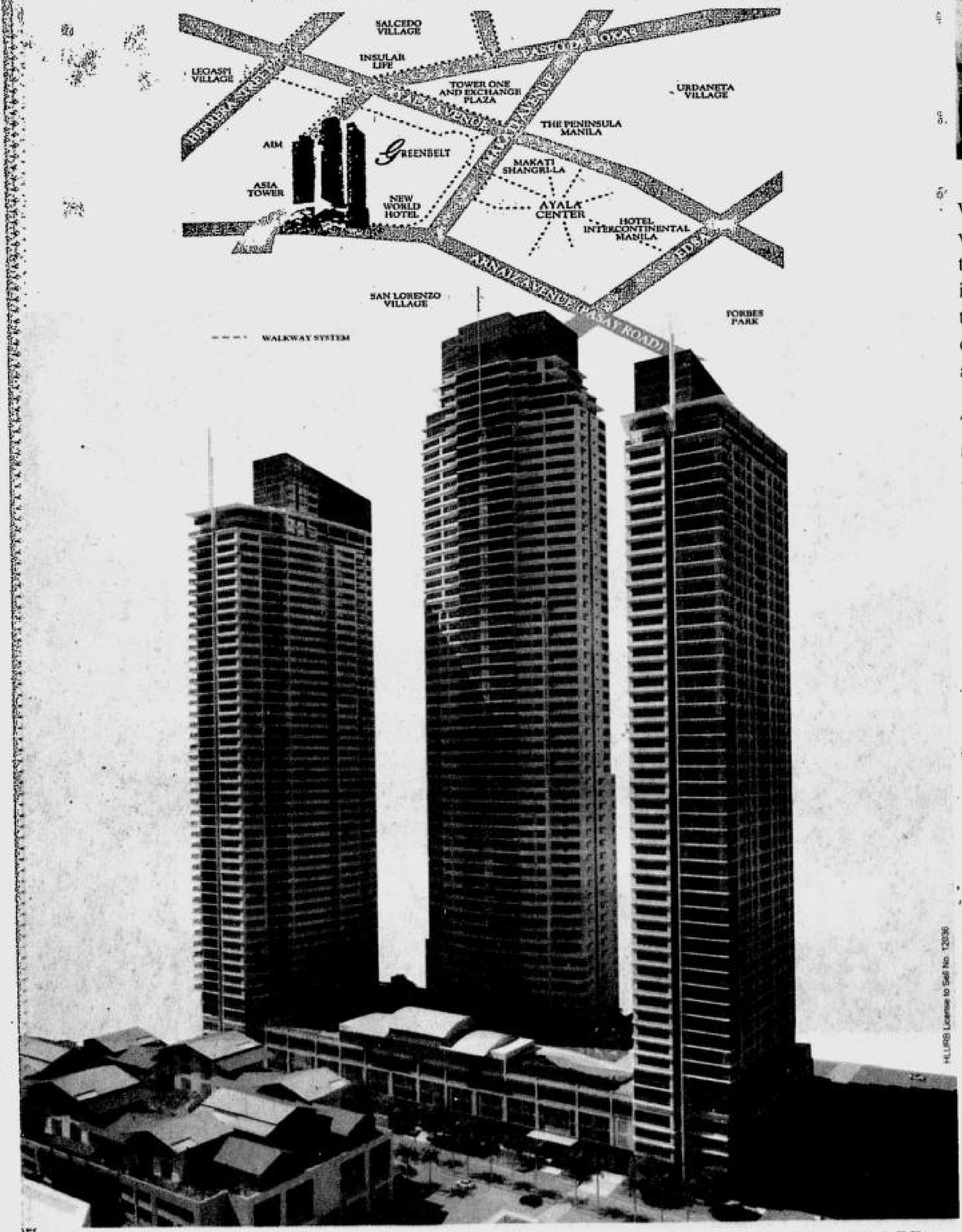

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AYALA LAND, INC.

SAN LORENZO TOWER:

The majesty of city living

Ayala Land Inc. unveils another exciting development in Makati City with the San Lorenzo Tower, the second tower of The Residences at Greenbelt, an upscale community within the Greenbelt area, envisioned to be the tallest building in Makati City.

The San Lorenzo Tower soars to a height of 195 meters comprising 57 floors, making it an imposing landmark right in the center of the Makati Central Business District. It is one of the three towers comprising The Residences at Greenbelt, the only residential condominium to bear the prestigious Greenbelt complex address.

Designed by the world renowned Architecture International and GF & Partners, the San Lorenzo Tower is an expression of lightness, integrity and modern living, a total departure from common condominium designs which are cramped and lack relaxing views.

While other condominiums in Makati give you the back view of another building as you look out your window, the San Lorenzo Tower assures an unobstructed view in all its units. Residents can enjoy watching sights of the bustling city, particularly its majestic skyline at night, or appreciate the relaxing view of San Lorenzo Village and the Laguna hills.

The structure is curved on the inward side, creating a softer community façade facing Esperanza Drive. Architecture International and GF & Partners designed the stepped curve to reflect the changes in the unit mix, as well as to accentuate the slenderness of the front bowed prow.

The upper portion of the Tower houses the penthouse units with roof terraces. The tower is topped off with a spire, elevating the building's height to a total of 204 meters.

Units facing Arnaiz Avenue, meanwhile, are articulated by a strong vertical composition of balconies and bay windows to give them a breathtaking view of the Laguna hills. The balconies also allow for an extension of the open interior environment to the outdoors.

Two-storey high loft units highlight the façade of this side of the building, offering a new urban prototype for Makati. Residents in the garden and penthouse units also get individual private gardens which they can develop into a serene landscaped oasis.

The units of San Lorenzo Tower are perfect for the unique climate conditions in the Philippines. This bio-climatic architecture maximizes views and natural light to the units and creates a contemporary expression with its use of construction materials such as glass, concrete and metal. With the building's north-south orientation, buyers are assured of having 'cool' units at any time of the day.

View our new model units at our showroom, 3rd floor, Greenbelt 3.

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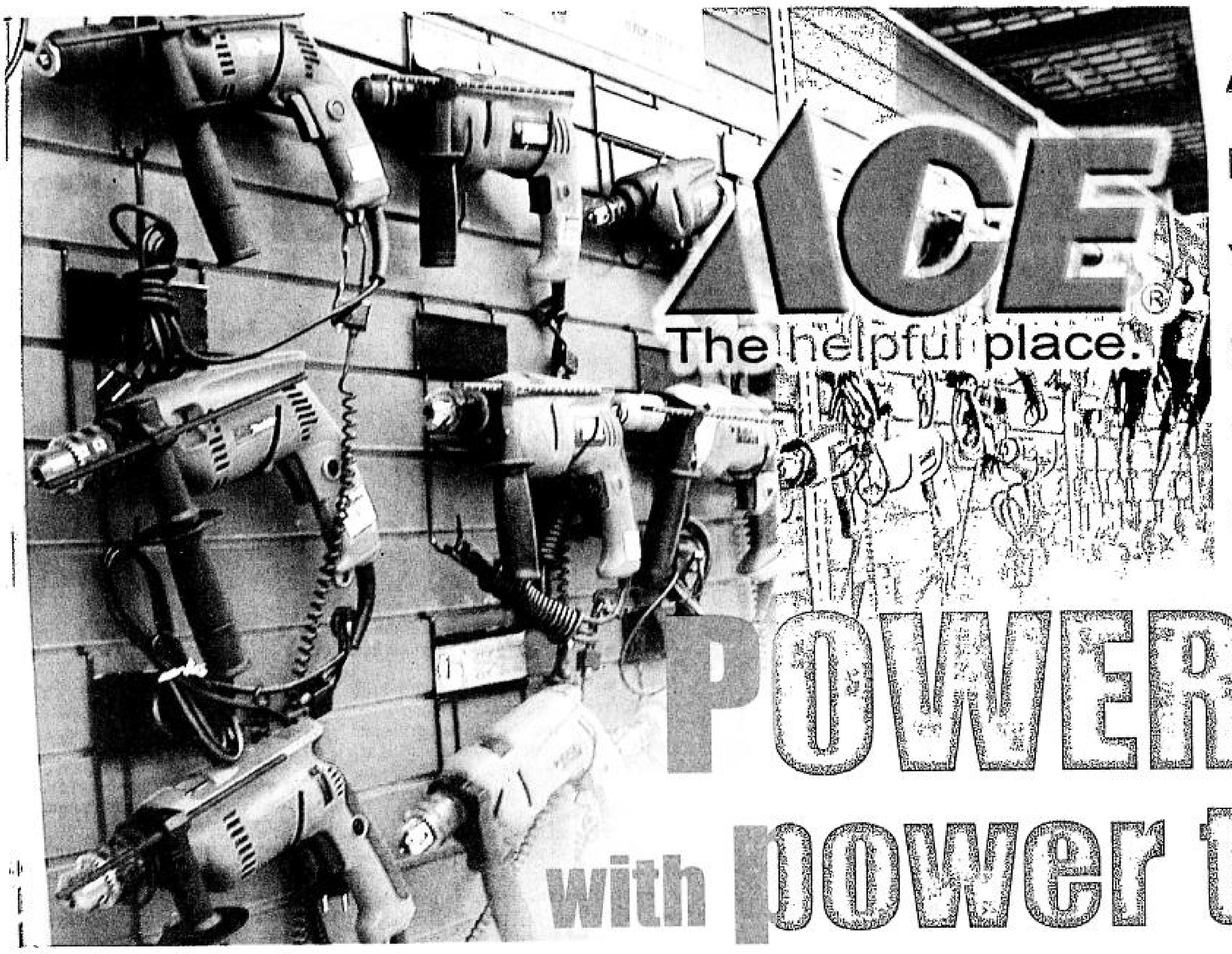


At Ace Hardware, we're all about getting the job done using the right tools.

POWER UP with power tools

Imagine you wanted to have a DVD rack in the living room to house your large collection of DVDs that you've been keeping for some time now.

The easiest way to do it, of course, is to require the services of a carpenter. But what if the carpenter's work did not conform to your plan? And the DVD rack completely destroyed the design of your living room?

Then you remember your friendly neighbor across the street creating racks and shelves for their house using some extraordinary tools. You even saw his wife assisting him - drilling and at times, screw driving.

Your friend is a certified home improvement wizard and uses power tools to get his job done.

About power tools

A power tool is an electronically-powered gadget. Compared to conventional carpenter tools, using a power tool would take less time, which can be as much as half, completing a certain task. Since it is electronically powered, one also uses less effort getting the job done with a power tool. Efficiency is also better since its settings are all pre-set.

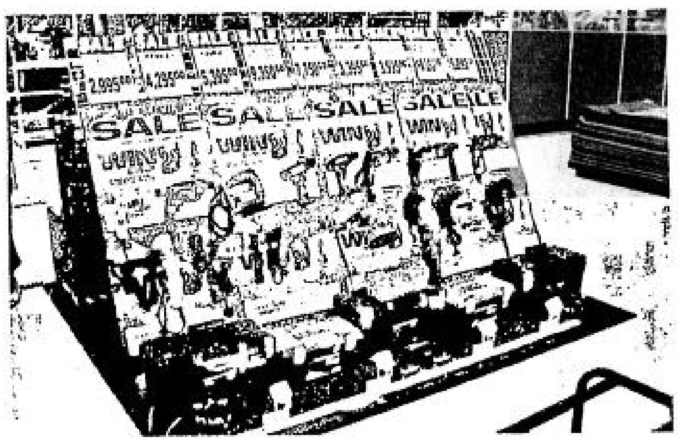
Power tools can be classified into four uses. There are power tools for drilling, for cutting, for removal or sanding and for screw driving. All power tools conform to any one of these tasks but since some tools have been developed throughout the years, there are power tools now that perform multiple tasks. There is even a specific power tool that can perform all of the four tasks. Accessories, which would definitely depend on one's needs and the tasks ahead, are also available and would surely make the life of a home improvement enthusiast a lot easier.

An ordinary saw or the layman's lagare, for example, has an equivalent power tool-the electronic jigsaw.

Both perform the same tasks but the electronic jigsaw would give you a cleaner cut using less time and less effort. When using the electronic jigsaw, one can even leave the wood he is sawing.

Electronic jigsaws even have multiple uses in terms of capacity, with single speed

POWER/ H2



POWER tools complement both novices and professionals.

POWERTOOLS SALE

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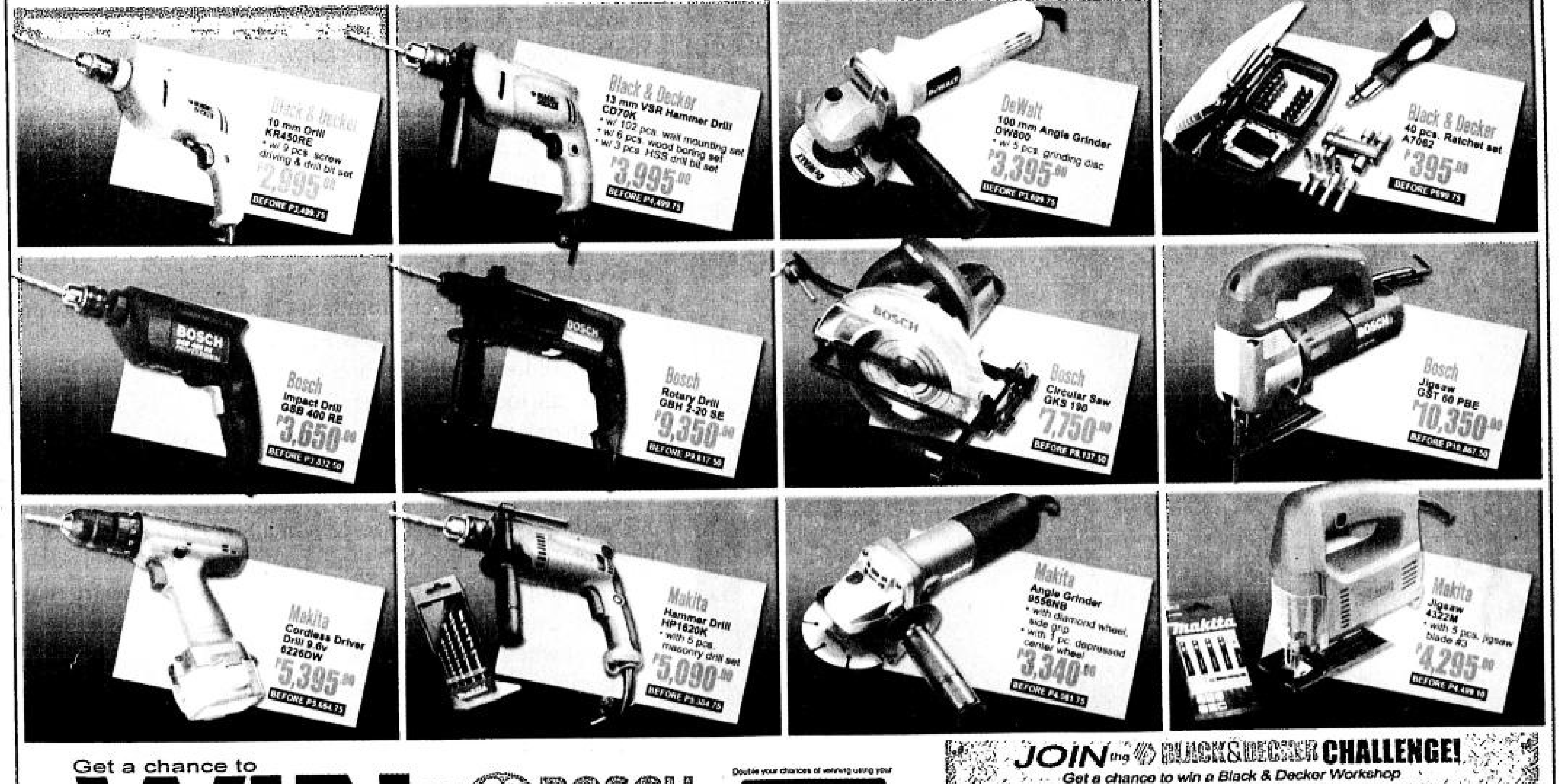
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See poster mechanics for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1330, Series of 2005

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Get a chance to win a Black & Decker Workshop
Every P1,000 single or accumulated purchase of Black & Decker entitles you to join.
Sink 5 screws into a wooden board as fast as you can!

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

ACE Megamall	Hardware Workshop North Edsa	ACE Pampanga	ACE Bacoor	ACE Southmall	ACE Fairview
May 21 & 22	May 28 & 29	June 4 & 5	June 11 & 12	June 18 & 19	June 25 & 26
10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm

Final Challenge will be on June 26, 2005, 4pm at ACE Builders Fairview
See poster mechanics for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1162, Series of 2005

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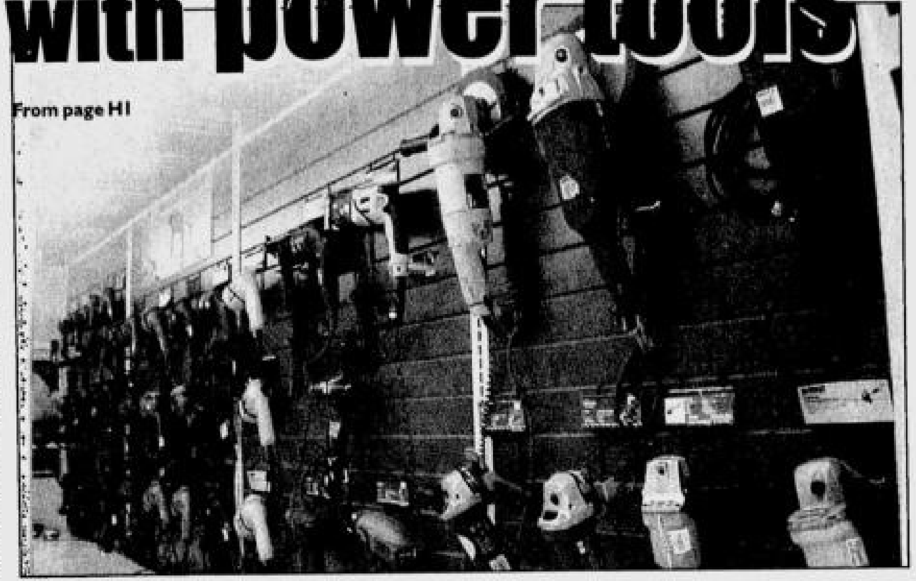
Power up with power tools

From page H1



ACE has a wide array of powertools in all its stores.

(for normal cutting) or variable speed (for jobs that require elaborate designs).

For drilling, there are rotary drills and hammer or impact drills. Rotary drills are used for wood, plastic or metal and have specific applications that are required in precise drillings. The impact drills are the ones used for cement. Some of these power drills can also be used as power screwdrivers.

Removal power tools remove residues either from metal or wood. These include grinders for metal and sander for wood, the ones commonly used by furniture workers. Power tools for screw driving are, surely, for nailing screws fast and precise in whatever surface.

Power tool for all, pros

Beginners, or those who are a complete novice to the task, can try any power tool with ease. Since they are all easy to operate, anybody can conveniently use them.

Professionals, like those who are involved in building or construction works, can also pick the right power tools for them. Power tools for beginners and professionals can be differentiated in terms of expertise. Tools for beginners are usually for simple tasks at home while for professionals for bigger tasks ahead.

Since power tools are classified to novice users and professional, there's a power tool ready for your otherwise daunting projects.

Power tools safety tips

WITH the increasing use of power tools in the country, it is just proper that some safety education programs are provided for consumers. Here are some safety tips for the safe and proper use of power tools for consumers.

- Know your power tool. Read the manual carefully. Learn the tool's applications, limitations and potential hazards.
- Ground all tools unless double insulated. If tool is equipped with three-prong plug, it should be plugged into a three-hole receptacle. If adapter is used to accommodate two-prong receptacle, the adapter wire must be attached to a known ground. Never remove the third prong.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Keep workplace clean.
- Avoid dangerous environment. Don't use power tool in damp or wet locations. Keep work area lighted.
- Keep children a safe distance away.
- Store idle tools. When not in use, tools should be stored in a dry, high or locked place out of reach of children.
- Don't force the tool. Do not exceed the capacity for which it was designed.
- Use the right tool. Don't force a small tool to do the job of a heavy-duty tool.
- Wear proper apparel. Avoid loose clothing or jewelry that can get caught in moving parts. Use rubber gloves and footwear when working outside.
- Use safety glasses with most tools; also face or dust mask for cutting or sanding operations. Goggles, mask and gloves are particularly necessary when working with masonry.
- Don't abuse the cord. Never carry tool by cord or yank it to disconnect. Keep cord away from oil, heat and sharp edges.
- Secure work. Use clamps or vise to hold work; this frees both hands to operate tool.
- Don't overreach. Keep a safe, stable footing.
- Turn off or disconnect tools when not in use-before servicing, when changing attachments, etc. Turn off tool when talking to someone or looking for something.
- Remove adjusting keys and wrenches before turning tool on.

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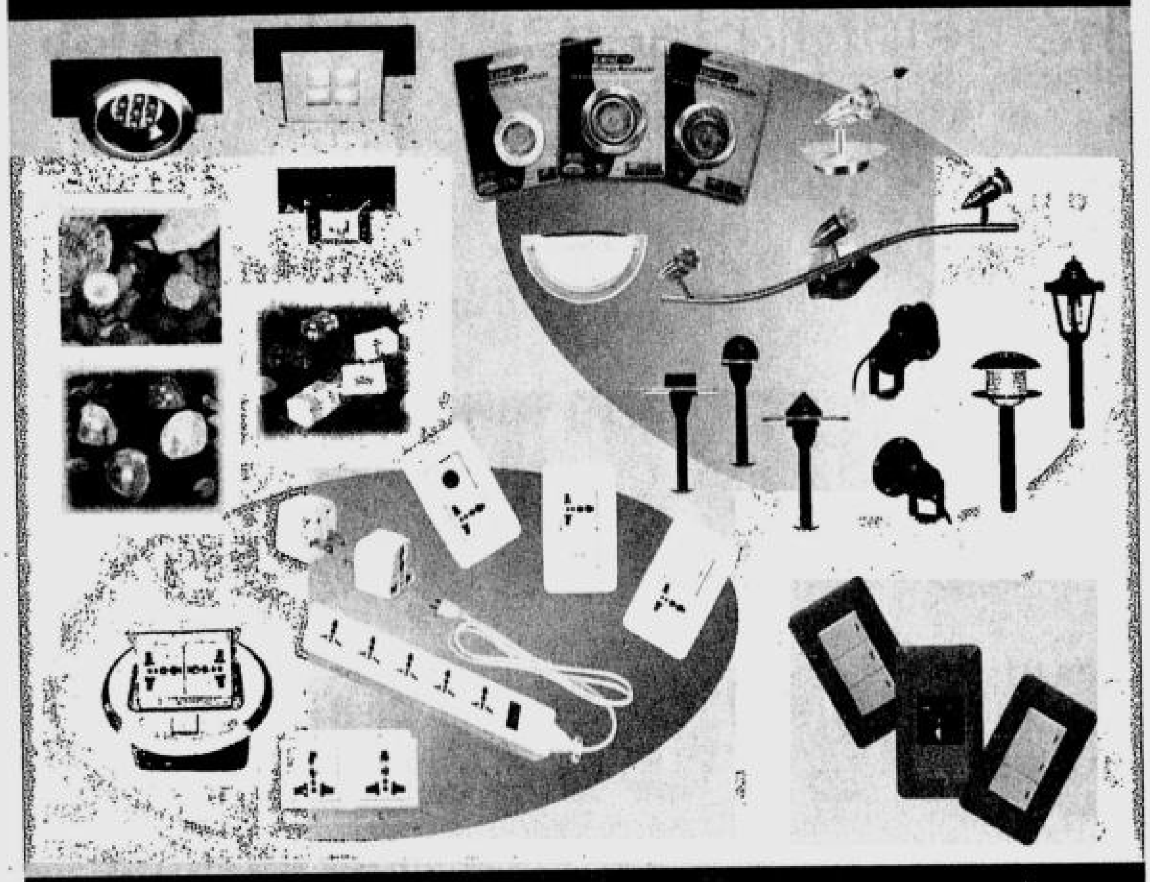

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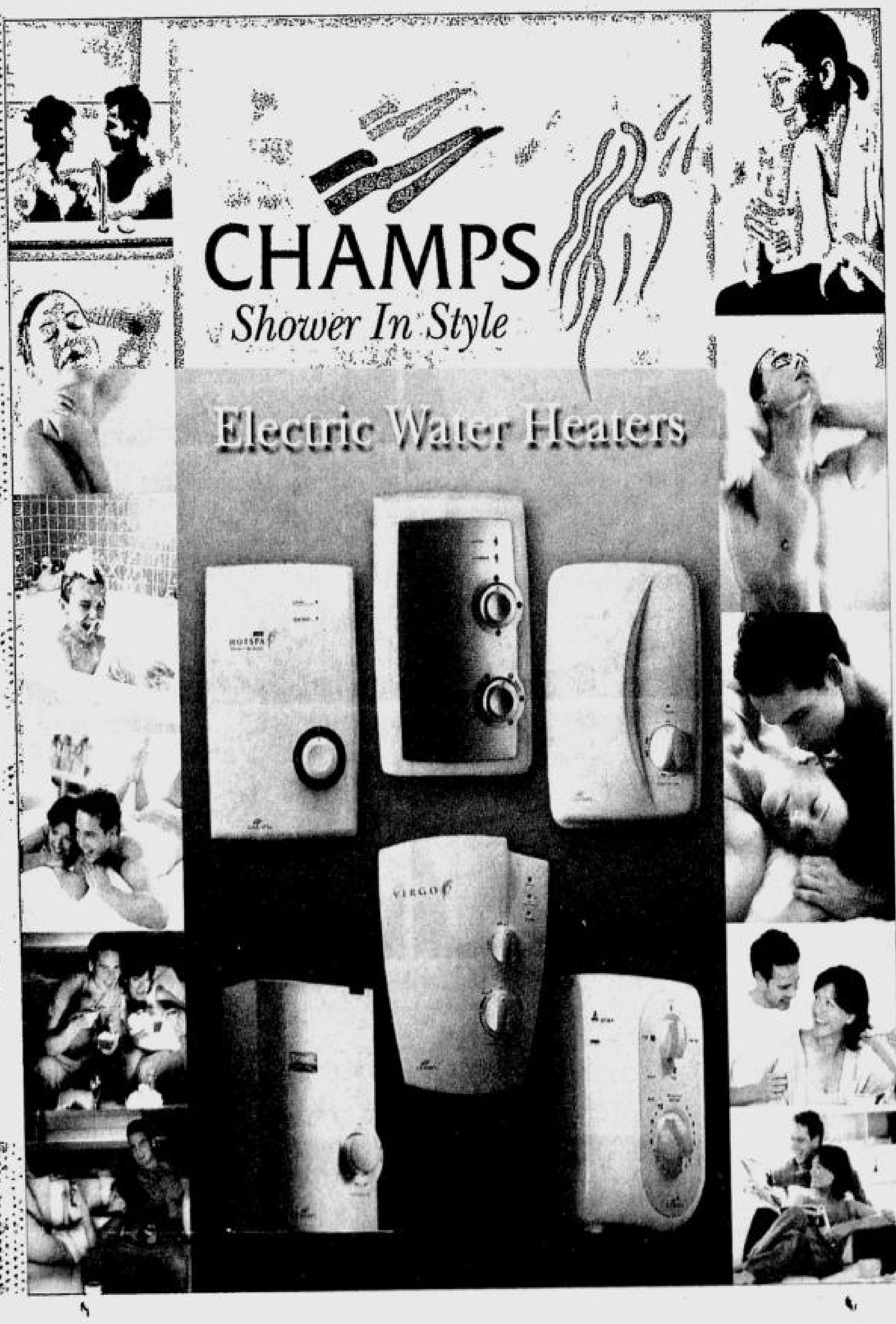

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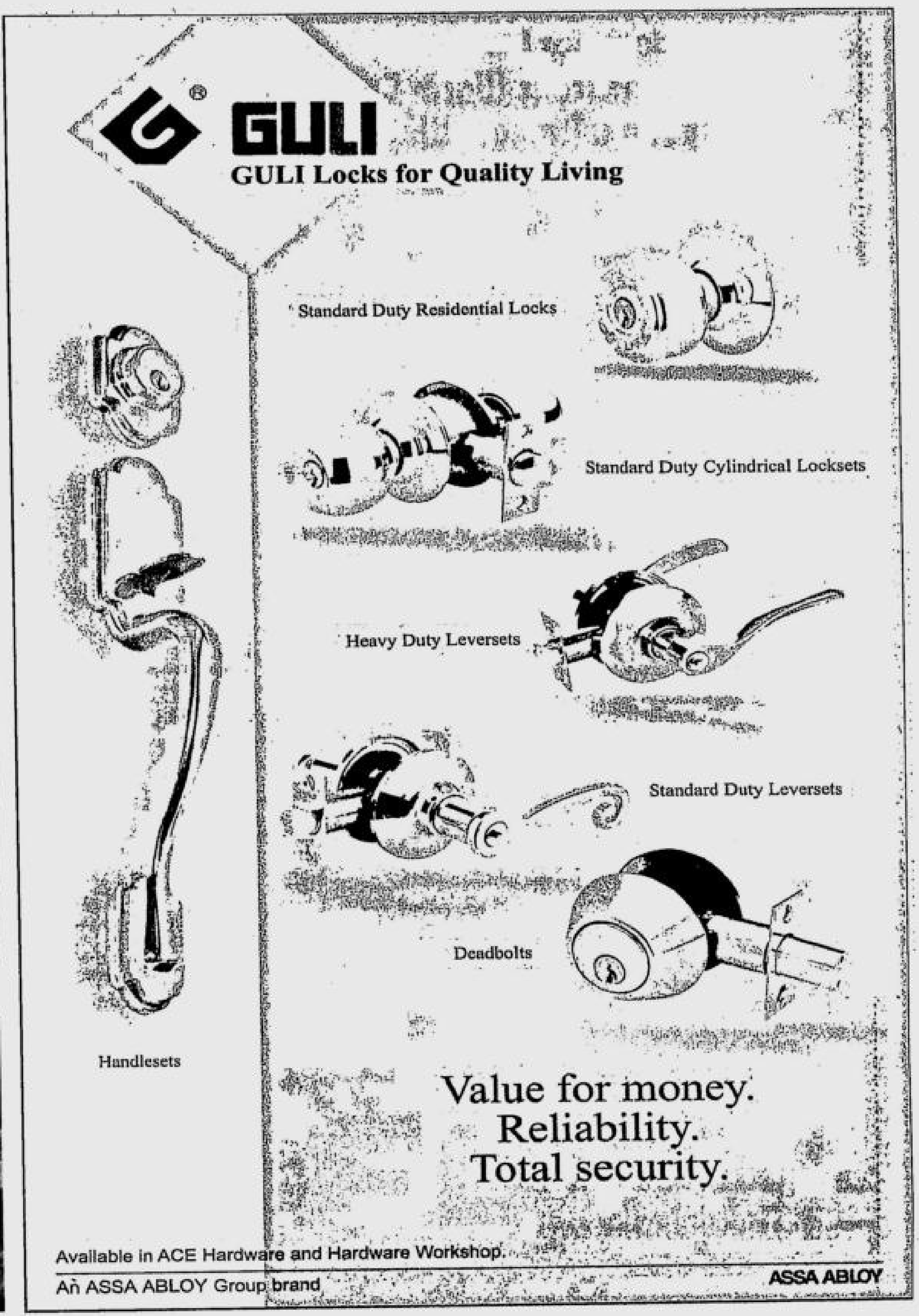
Search on for the country's fastest driller

Same excitement and same intensity await this year's participants to the Black and Decker Challenge III, a search for the country's fastest driller being held by global power tool manufacturer Black and Decker in cooperation with ACE Hardware.

DRILLER/ H4

PAOLO Abrera demonstrating the convenience of power tools.



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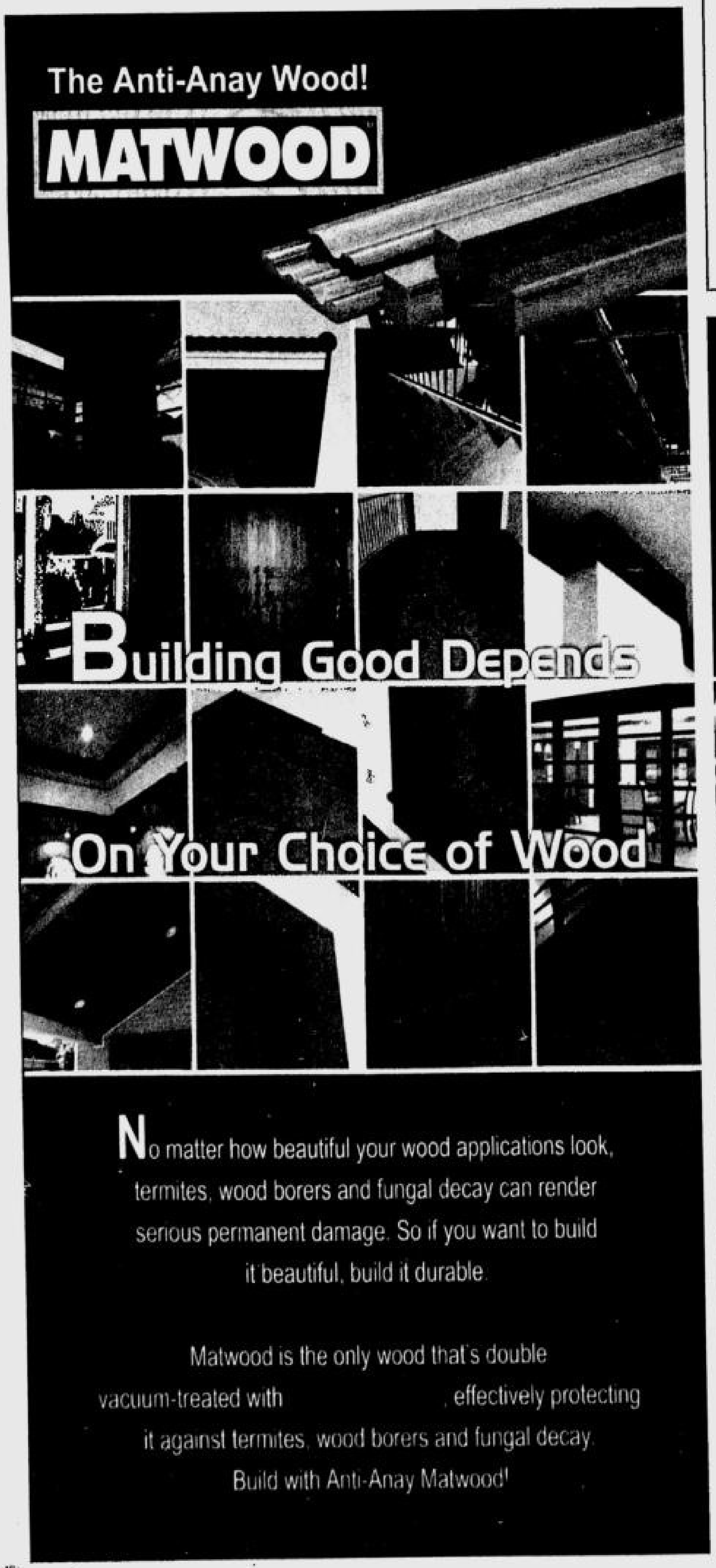

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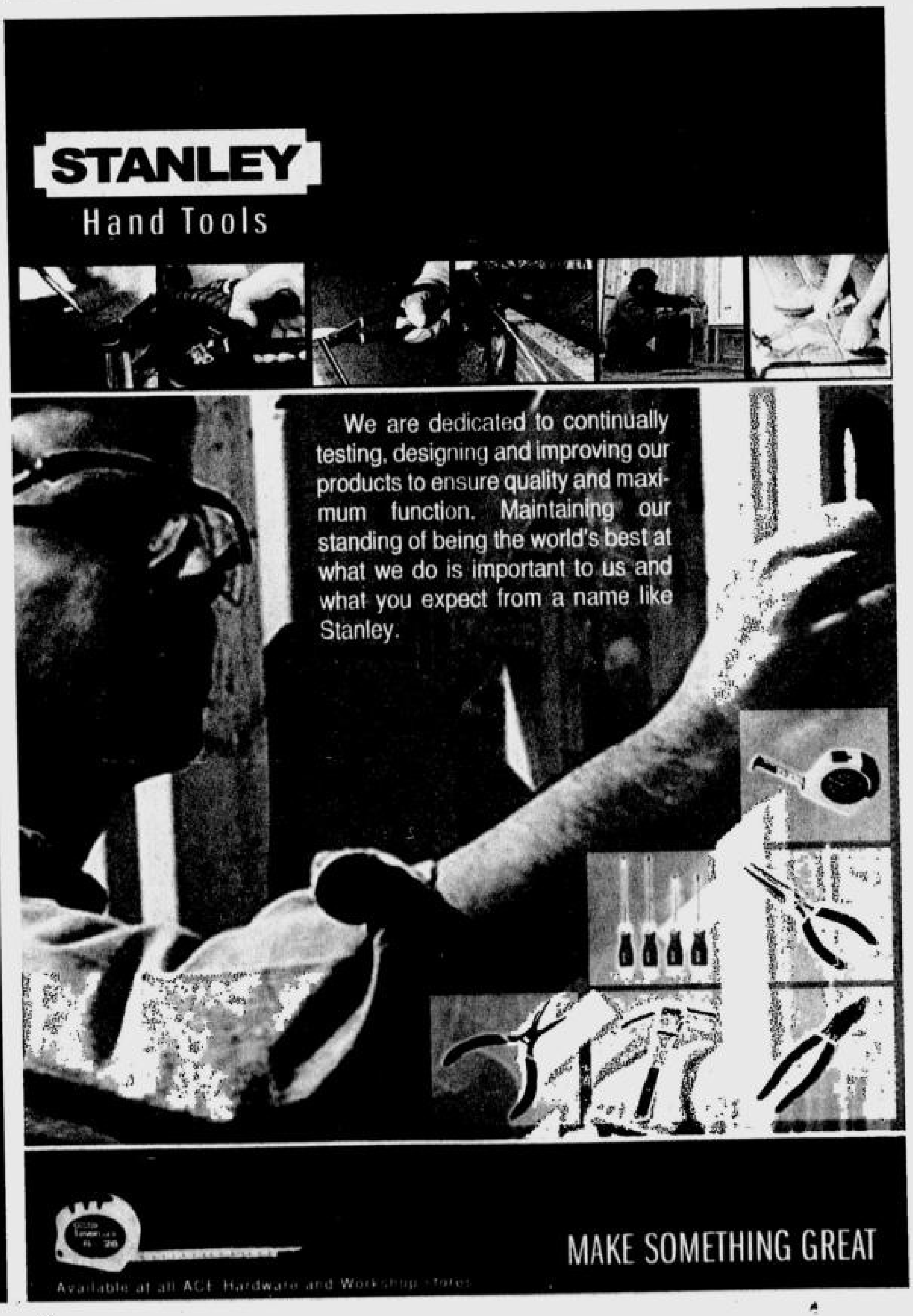

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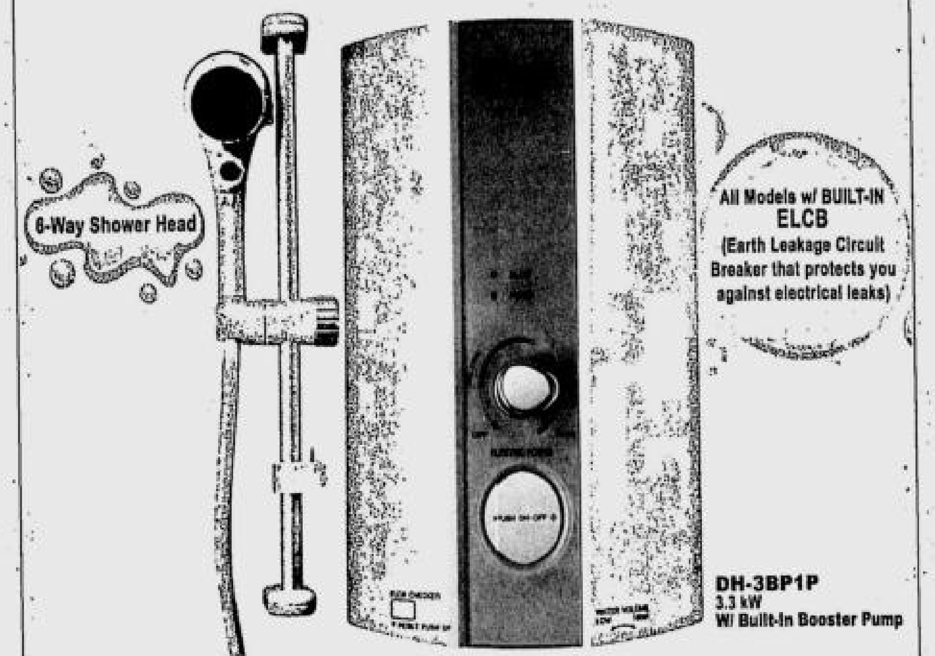
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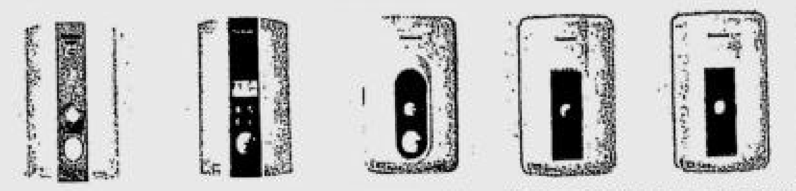
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Available at all electrical and appliance stores nationwide and at all ACE Hardware & SM Hardware Workshop, Inc.

THE RECORD to beat is 10.48 seconds set in 2003.

Search on for the country's fastest driller

From page H3

The challenge: Drill five screws into a hardwood as fast as possible using a Black & Decker CD1202K Cordless Drill.

Now on its third year, the Black and Decker Challenge is open to individuals, 18 years old and above, who have purchased at least P1,000 worth of Black & Decker products (single or accumulated) at any ACE Hardware or SM Hardware Workshop branch from May 21 to June 25.

This year's contest now involves more ACE Hardware branches as challenges are held every week from ACE Megamall to ACE Pampanga up to its Final Round at the ACE Builders' Center in SM Fairview. The previous B&D Challenges were held only at SM Megamall.

According to Black and Decker brand manager Arlyn Onte, the preliminary challenges will be held at the entrances of ACE Megamall (May 21 and 22), Workshop North Edsa (May 28 and 29), ACE Pampanga (June 4 and 5), ACE Bacoor (June 11 and 12), ACE Southmall (June 18 and 19) and ACE Fairview (June 25), from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Challengers will only be given two trials with their better performance time recorded. Three of the fastest drillers will be chosen each week and will battle it out in the Final Round on June 26, at the ACE Hardware Fairview. Prizes at stake in the Finals are Black and Decker workshops totaling P30,000. There would also be prizes that would be raffled off to spectators. The contest would be hosted by Do-It-Yourself (DIY) enthusiast Paolo Abrera.

Black and Decker country manager Anthony Allarey said that the record to beat is 10:48 seconds set by then "King of the Drill" Roy Gelvezon in 2003.

Last year, it was 19-year-old University of the Philippines molecular biology student Rachel Duque who won and became the country's first female fastest driller, with a clocking of 12:26 seconds. She bought Black and Decker power tools as a gift for her dad on Father's Day.

A female registering the fastest drilling time last year just means that power tools are indeed easy and convenient to use. One does not have to be a professional to be able to try them.

The Black and Decker Challenge is exclusive for Ace Hardware

Three of the fastest drillers will be chosen each week and will battle it out in the Final Round on June 26, at the ACE Hardware Fairview.

LAST year 19-year old Rachel Duque became the country's first female fastest driller.

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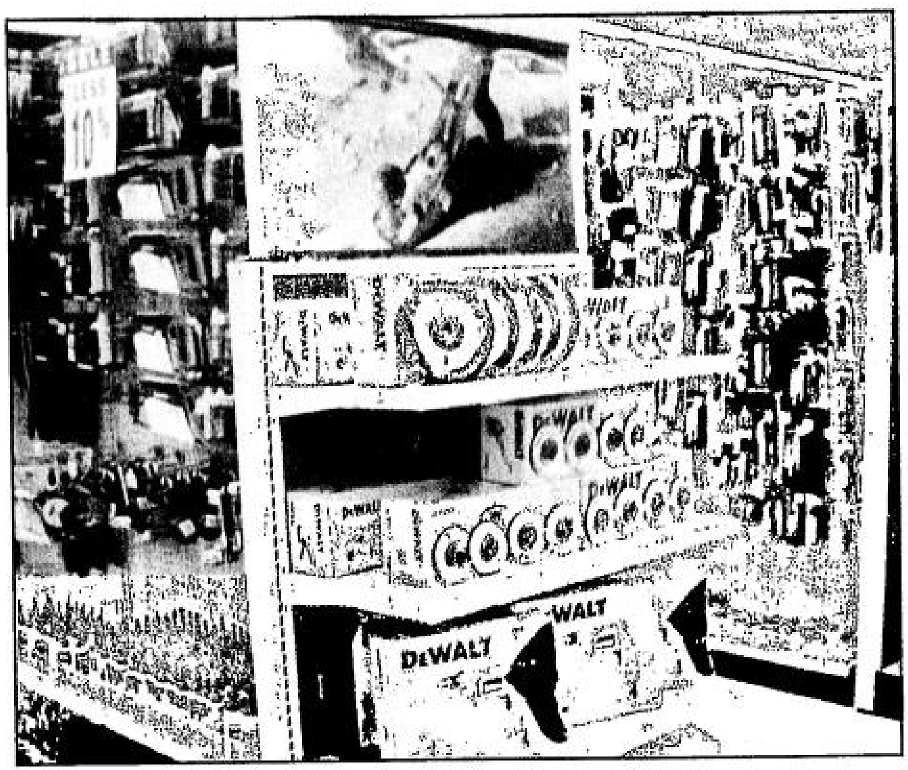

POWER tools are available at Ace Hardware Workshop and Ace Builders.

Power tools at ACE Hardware

POWER tools whether for beginners or for professionals and from various shapes and sizes are available at Ace Hardware, Hardware Workshop and Ace Builders Center

Highly successful as a home improvement store for the past eight years, ACE provides all the power tools from drilling, cutting, removal or sanding and screw driving. ACE also carries only the best power tool.brands in the market today and offers some items which are only exclusive to ACE.

ACE is also widely recognized for the convenience it gives to its customers. Since it has everything from tools to appliances, interiors to finishing materials, customers need not to go various shops and stores for their home improvement needs. This makes their shopping easier and less cumbersome.

With ACE Builders Center, the home improvement store now offers the same kind of help to customers at the contractor level.

Its Fairview and Pampanga, which occupies a total area of 11,500 sq.m., per branch aims to provide convenience and comfort to the buying consumer.

It contains a huge selection of building materials: steel bars, plywood panels of different sizes, dimensional wood, drywall wood, cornices, baseboards, cement, PVC doors and basic materials for construction and renovation.

They also have plumbing supplies, electrical, decorative, kitchen appliances, office and home furniture, houseware, power tools, paints and sundries, automotive, chemicals and batteries.

Ace Builders Center also has a pet corner for animal lovers. It also has its own range of paint products which are lead-free and odorless and come in about 1,400 colors.

The staff are also highly trained to assist all kinds of customers-whether layman, professional builders or contractors familiar with technical terms. At Ace, there is always an inhouse expert ready to give a customer advice.

Since it has the widest selection of home improvement merchandise, Ace provides better alternatives to what exists in today's hardware market. Branded and non-branded products offer better value for money. And with over 25,000 contractor-related items, its sheer variety ensures there will be something for everyone.

> **Ace Hardware Workshop and Ace Builders Center have the right goods and the right advice when customers want them.**

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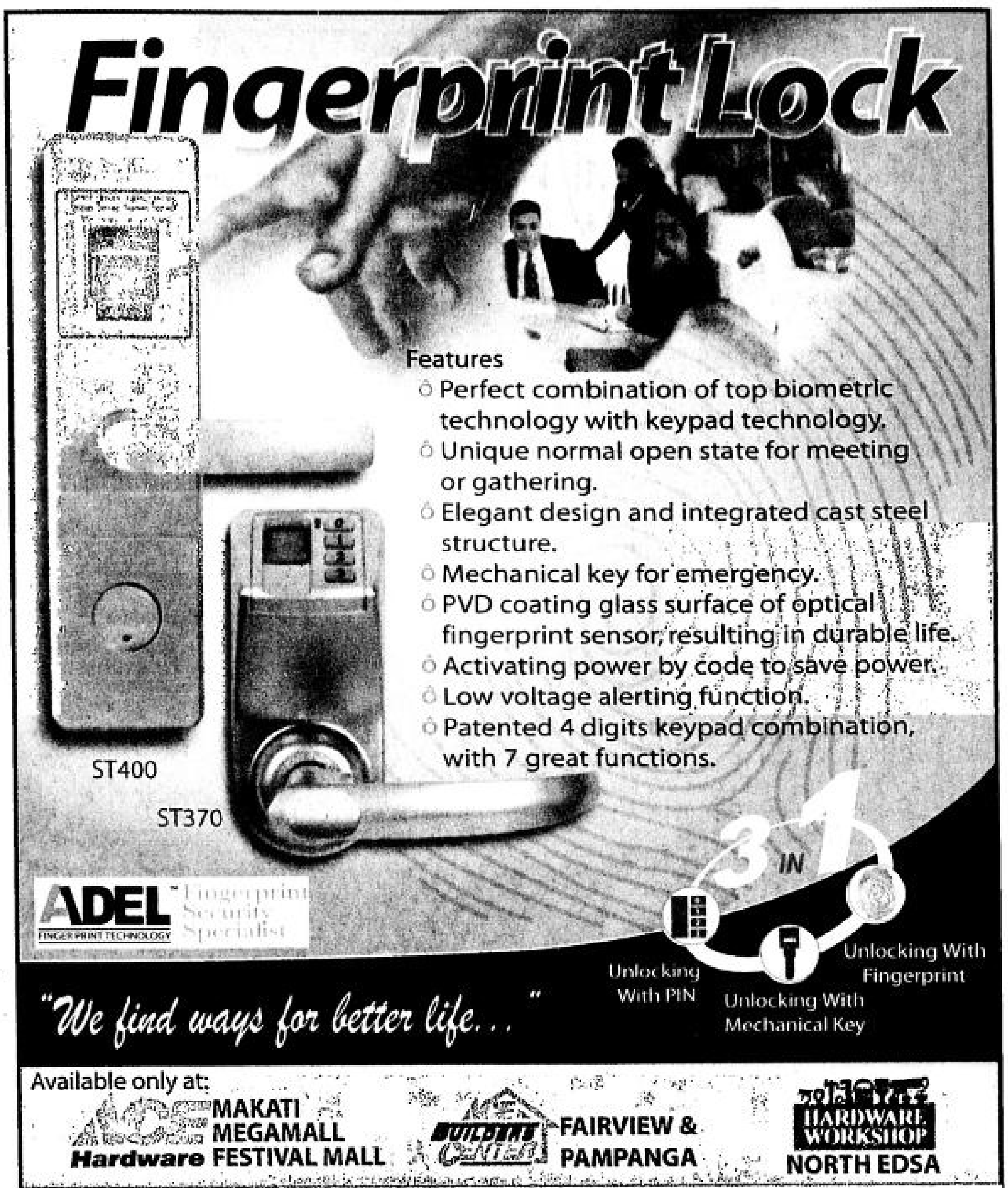
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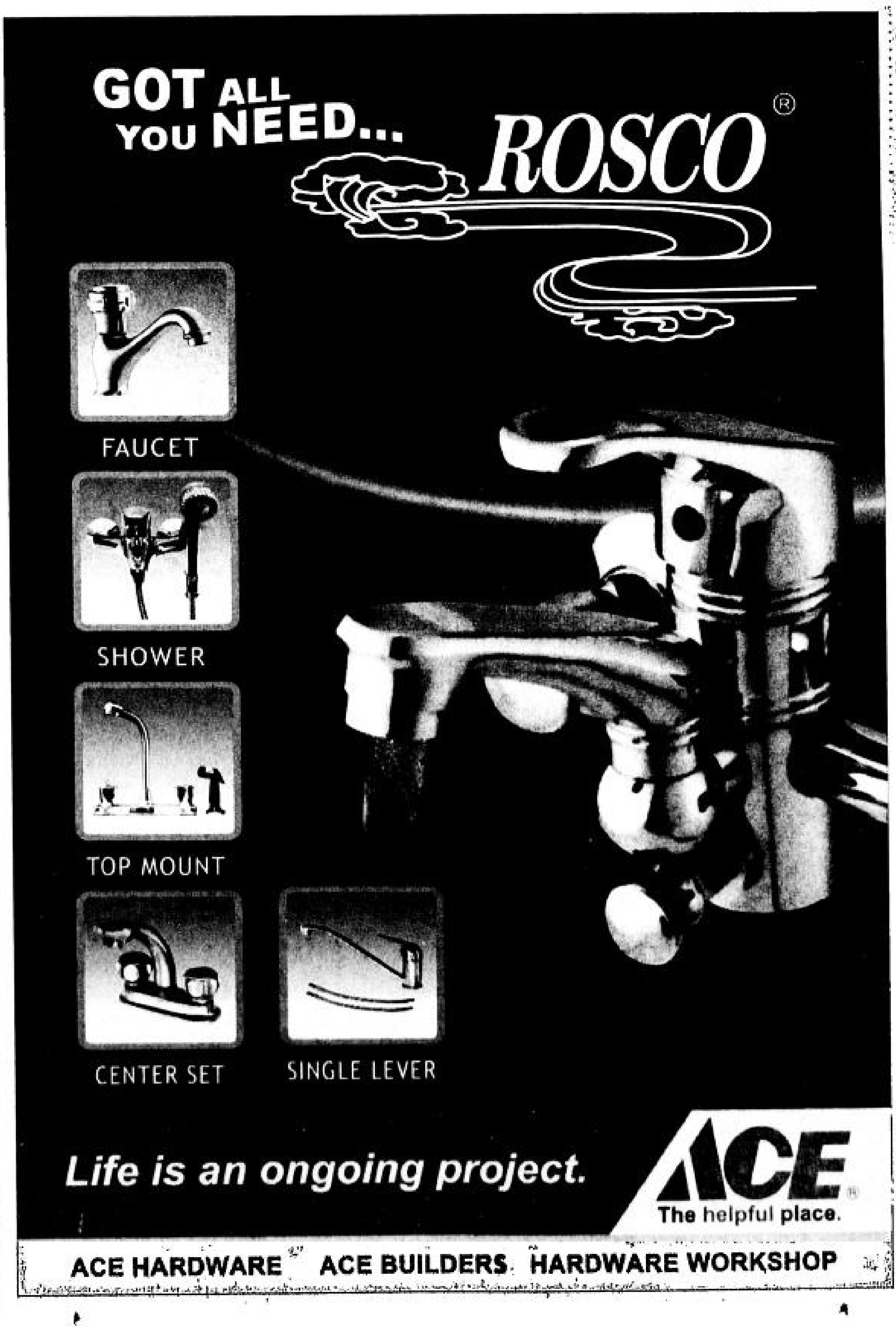
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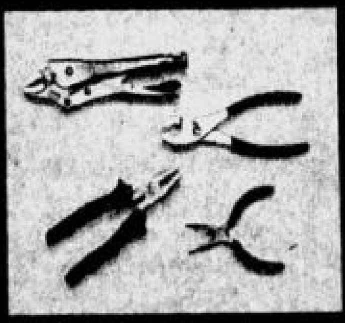

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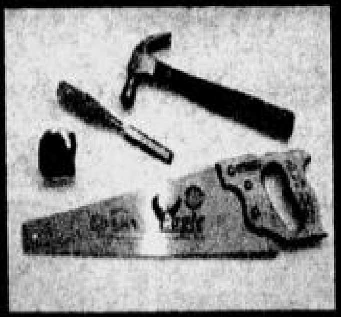

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TDLC expresses confidence in DENR's initiatives

THE DISCOVERY Leisure Company (TDLC), owner of luxury apartments and deluxe properties in Manila, announced that it is currently finalizing its plans to build Discovery Shores, a world-class resort in Boracay.

TDLC supports the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) initiatives for Boracay. "We commend the efforts being started by Secretary Michael Defensor. We are more than willing to partner with DENR to save the island's future," offers John Tiu, director for corporate planning of TDLC.

"One of our initiatives at the Discovery Shores shall be the environment. We shall dedicate ourselves into giving back to the community by being socially responsible and a compassionate company that invests in the well-being of the community," adds Tiu. Based upon this philosophy, Discovery Shores Boracay, through TDLC, shall adopt programs to protect its environmental surroundings. The resort shall improve these programs each year, with emphasis on environmental education and waste recycling, reduction and reuse.

"When people actively and thoughtfully protect and preserve our planet's beautiful places, they have made a moral investment in that destination's continued success. When our guests and employees start making lifestyle changes because of the initiatives they undertake or observe at our resort, then we will know that we have been truly successful," avers Tiu.

This is why TDLC is a company based on "values" that reflect an environment ethic and social conscience - for the long term. TDLC, with the support of DENR and its regional office, shall take the lead in this call and shall implement comprehensive environmental initiatives that protect the natural heritage, starting with Boracay.

"We remain upbeat and confident about Boracay," offers Tiu, referring to the growing number of tourists in Boracay. Boracay posted 122,742 arrivals from January to March 2005 or a 19 percent increase from the same period last year.

Boracay Island has gained international recognition as one of the best beaches in the world because of its fine white, almost powder-like sand marked by a long stretch of palm trees and crystal clear waters.

Apart from the main beach, the island is blessed with verdant hills, caves, forests, islets, and coves. The island is bustling with activities ranging from aqua sports, annual tournaments, and sponsored events. Restaurants specializing in different cuisines dot the whole island.

Discovery Shores, a luxurious premier resort located in the exclusive Station 1, Boracay Island, shall soon open in 2006. Manila-based W.V. Coscolluela & Associates designed the 7,200 square-meter beachfront property. Budji Layug and Royal Pineda designed the interiors.

Discovery Shores boasts 88 luxurious and spacious accommodation that include Studio units, one bedroom units and two bedroom units with an area of 45 to 85 square-meter. The balcony/terrace has an area of 6 to 12 square-meter. Each room is carefully designed and thought of to suit the needs of discriminating guests. The design is innovative and modern, setting a new benchmark in Boracay, and in the Asian region as a whole. Other notable features include a two-level clubhouse, the gym, and the spa.

Discovery Shores Boracay Island will be the most prestigious resort in the island with its exclusive Station 1 location, luxurious accommodations, and unique services.

MAYBANK PHILS CBA SIGNED

Last April 29, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the management of Maybank Phils Inc (MPI) and the MPI Employees Union (MPIEU) was formally signed and ratified in a simple signing ceremony that took place at the Boardroom of Makati Shangri-La, which was also the venue of the recent Board Meeting of the Maybank Group. Present during the event are (seated, from right) MPI director Spencer Lee, MPI president and CEO Lim Hong Tat, union president Regie Ricohermoso and MPIEU 1st VP Rodel Espiritu. Standing (from right) are MPI services group head Lee Tien Poh, Maybank KL HR officer Banita Sandhu, lawyer Edwin Patricio, union director Jun Ortega, NATU president Bienvenido Perez, union treasurer Nora Dinglasa, union auditor Louie Figueroa and union assistant treasurer Winston Aveyro.

EWB TARLAC BRANCH INAUGURAL

East West Bank (EWB), emerging to be the country's 'preferred consumer bank' continues to strengthen its presence in the countryside with its unique brand of personalized service. One top-performing branch is the Tarlac Personal Banking Center (PBC) which recently celebrated its first anniversary and formal inauguration last May 20. The well-attended affair was graced by EWB officers together with prominent Filipino and Chinese businessmen in Tarlac. EWB Tarlac PBC is headed by Giovanni Uy and is located at Mariposa Building, F. Tanedo St., in Tarlac City with tel. nos. (045)982-3567, (045)982-1937, (045)982-1691. Photo shows Marcelino and Rebecca Tan owner of Magic Star Mall with Giovanni N. Uy (center), PBC-head, EWB Tarlac branch.

GILBEY'S GIN

GILBEY'S GIN INVADES THE BEACHES

For the past weekends of May, Gilbey's Gin started invading the hottest beach destinations in Luzon with its first invasion at the Sea Breeze Resort (Matabungkay), Villa Excellance Resort (Cavite) and at Micko's Bar (Puerto Galera) simultaneously. The most recent is at Ocean View Resort (Subic) and JohnDel Beach Resort (Nasugbu), which ran simultaneously until May 29 along with Hadsan Cove Resort (Cebu). The sexy and pretty Gilbey's girls gave beach bums free Gilbey's drinks while they bask in the sun. Gilbey's also offered its summer promotion, Pure Rewards, at the station booth. Six (6) limited edition collectible items (2 new designs every month) were given away in every purchase of a Gilbey's Gin 1 Liter and 700ml. The 6 collectible items were laminated playing cards and rubberized keychains for April, adventure carabiner with flashlight and handy multi-purpose toolset for May and wind-resistant torch lighter and digital hookwatch for June.

PPS, DUMEX HOLD LUNCHEON SYMPOSIUM

The Philippine Pediatric Society together with Dumex held recently a luncheon symposium on 'Optimizing Brain Growth and Development through Nutrients and Brain Exercise' at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. With Dumex Sciences, medical professionals will have access to current and practical nutritional information that will help better the nutritional and health of infants and children by providing the latest health and nutritional know-how that will enhance the way children develop physically, mentally and emotionally in each step of life. Dumex Sciences highlighted the importance of Mind and Body Connection during the PPS Convention with a Luncheon Symposium on Brain Nutrients and Brain Exercise with Joel Lazaro, MD, DPPS, FPSDBP, Leticia Ho, MD and Leny Ochoa of Brain Gym. Photo shows Mei Choy, president and general manager of Dumex Phils Inc during the opening of the PPS-Dumex Luncheon Symposium.

A PERFECT PRIZE FOR A NEWLY GRAD

Nomer Lacno (second from left), a new high school graduate from Quiapo Parochial School won a brand new car, a Honda City 1.3L MT as grand prize of Isetann Supermarket's 'Shop Now! Get a Chance to Win Fabulous Prizes!' promo drawn last Feb. 19. With him are (from left) Isetann officials Lolita Bonilla - AVP-finance, his father Emerito Lacno and Jovie Dimayuga - supermarket operations division manager. Like him, you may shop and get a chance to win at Isetann Dept. Store and Supermarket's upcoming promo "25th Anniversary Blowout!", where over P2 million worth of prizes will be given away from May 1, 2005 to Jan. 31, 2006.

Bits & Clips

The Bridge School opens 2005-2006 term

THE BRIDGE School, an international early childhood learning center located at 29 Cairo Street, BF Northwest, opens its 2005-2006 term on June 21. Now on its fifth year, The Bridge is committed to the development of the whole child and celebrates each child's uniqueness by helping him to develop and use his God-given gifts to his fullest potential. The Bridge School provides an emergent curriculum based on the standards of Developmental Appropriate Practices as set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, USA. At The Bridge, every child is taught and prepared at his own unique level. Enrollment is now on-going. Shuttle service for yaya and child is available throughout the year. For more information, The Bridge School can be reached at tel. nos.: 826-5777; 829-9514 to 15, 0920-9506078 and 0918-9977642.

Escape to paradise

THIS year, Island Caravan will take you to an unforgettable journey across the Last Frontier, when the caravan's first special run entitled Palawan Escape kicks off on June 17 until the 19th. Island Caravan is presented by Globe Handyphone in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, organized by Skoal Advertising and packaged and sold by the Island Caravan Consortium. Prepare to be astounded by Palawan's rich ecological diversity and extraordinary natural beauty as you embark on a remarkable adventure traversing several of Palawan's wonders. Experience all this and more in Island Caravan's Palawan Escape. For inquiries, call 400-6521 and 09178474560 or log on to www.islandcaravan.com. Any tour package can be repeated for a minimum of thirty (30) passengers.

'Forever Young' with Wella

DON'T fret at the sight of gray. You can stay "forever young" with the Fascinating Browns and natural shades of hair colorants from Bellady Decoré by Wella. Check out its benefits from the Wella "Caravan of Beauty" at Watson's outlets in SM North Edsa - June 16-22; SM Las Piñas - June 30-July 6; SM Pampanga -July 7-13; and SM Davao - August 11-17, 2005. This pampering treat includes free on-the-spot hair coloring with Wella by David's Salon stylists, makeup by Max Factor, plus the chance to browse through Summit Media magazines, while you munch on Pringles. Get all these when you buy a bottle of Bellady Decoré from any participating Watson's outlet. Available in leading department stores, health and beauty shops, drugstores, and supermarkets nation-wide. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.

Philippines' Bests! 2005

THE COLORFUL Masskara Festival of Bacolod will usher the grand opening of "Philippines' Bests! 2005", Kabugana-an sang Western Visayas' regional showcase at Clamshell 1, Intramuros today at 5 p.m. Region VI (Iloilo, Guimaras, Antique, Aklan, Capiz and Negros Occidental), home of the world-famous island resort – Boracay and the Miag-ao Church, will take the spotlight in featuring the region's cultural heritage from June 14 to 28. "Philippines' Bests! 2005" at Intramuros is open everyday from 10 a.m. until 12 midnight, except Mondays when it opens at 4 p.m. to 12 midnight. Admission is free.

1st VCP Anniversary Event

ONE of the fastest growing car clubs - Vios Club Philippines (VCP) - is inviting all motorists and car enthusiasts to their 1st VCP Anniversary Event on Saturday, July 2, 4 p.m. at the Marikina City Riverbanks. Join in the celebration of Toyota Vios owners with a car exhibit, contest and programme. Special guests from the automotive industry, local government, business and media will grace the event. For more details, log on to their website for free at www.viosclubphil.com and join now.

WELCOME!!!
Help a child and WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!
LOURDES RAFFLE DRAW

LOURDES WORLD RESEARCH HOLDS ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAW

Lourdes World Research has recently held its annual Lourdes Raffle Draw last May 18, in Quezon City, witnessed by a DTI Representative. For the past seven years, Lourdes World Research has been an instrument in giving donations to the street children of Soup-Kitchen of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Pasig City. Shown are some officers of Soup Kitchen headed by Mrs Raymundo (holding the check, right) receiving donations from a representative of LWR and spiritual director Monsignor Manny Gabriel (extreme left). This year's grand prize winner of a trip to Lourdes is Dennis Castro of North Cotabato.

3M, OPTIMUM SOURCE INK DEAL

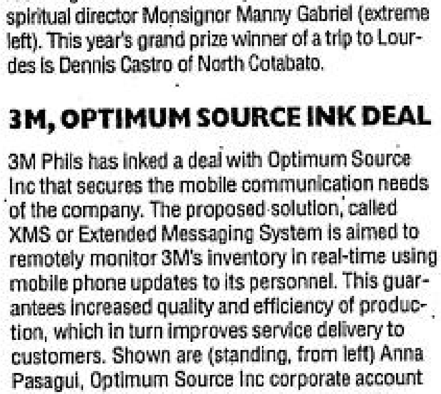
3M Phils has inked a deal with Optimum Source Inc that secures the mobile communication needs of the company. The proposed solution, called XMS or Extended Messaging System is aimed to remotely monitor 3M's inventory in real-time using mobile phone updates to its personnel. This guarantees increased quality and efficiency of production, which in turn improves service delivery to customers. Shown are (standing, from left) Anna Pasagui, Optimum Source Inc corporate account manager; Roy Cabuang, IT supervisor and Doy Guino, systems engineer both from 3M Phils Inc; (seated, from left) lawyer Armee Filamor, VP of Optimum Source Inc, beside her is Tina Roxas, eBusiness and customer care manager of 3M Phils Inc.

Product FILES

Are you a candidate for Diabetes?

NOW, there is a way to know - for sure. Because of its state-of-the-art bio- sensor technology, many doctors now recommend Ascensia Glucometer from Bayer, the leader in Diabetic care research and management for over 60 years, as it offers a more reliable, systematic and convenient way of accurately checking one's blood sugar level - at work, or in the comfort of one's home - practically anywhere and anytime of the day.

Exclusively distributed by Fernando Medical Enterprises and readily available at Mercury Drugstores, nationwide, Ascensia glucometers come in two convenient types: the no fuss, no mess, no buttons to push Elite glucometer which automatically turns on when the test strip is inserted, uses capillary gap technology which requires only 2uL of blood so there's absolutely no need to squeeze the finger just to get a drop of blood. Entrust glucometer's has a straight-forward set up and finger-friendly coded test strip that fits easily into the meter and has a large holding area for better strip handling. The LCD window displays information to guide user on how to get test results, retrieve memory of previous results (patients can easily review up to 10 tests with its meter memory). Both have replaceable batteries and are handy, lightweight, portable and provide accurate glucose level reading results comparable to laboratory plasma method used in many diagnostic clinic - in just 30 seconds.



PANA family bonds at Market! Market!

PANA capped its Rest and Recreation Month last April 30 with a morning of enjoyment and excitement for the family. The PANA Family Day, held at Market! Market! Mall in the Fort, Global City, Taguig entertained over 120 participants, made up of PANA representatives and their families.

The day started with a prayer led by Feriza Fernando, niece of PANA president Blen Fernando, followed by a short welcome address. PANA friend Spanky Enriquez and RPN-9's junior newscaster Justin Lutian, son of PANA board secretary lawyer Junie Lutian, were the energetic hosts of the event.

The programs entertained children and adults alike. The Nation Dog School's Dog Show showcased talented canines performing tricks that left everyone amazed. Randy Macalma's four-legged performers did a Hawaiian dance, crawled, counted and jumped over rings of fire. Alpo's Pet Care sponsored the dog show.

Energetic numbers were performed by PANA member company mascots Bibbo (CDO Foodsphere), Tony the Tiger (Kellogg's) E-Cow (Alaska) and Chuckie (Nestlé) to the delight of all. Despite the summer heat, the momentum of the event continued rising with the amazing magic tricks of master Wan Lu courtesy of Alaska Milk Corp.

Young artists from the participants joined the Sterling Paper Art Contest. They drew what was for them an ideal summer vacation this year. Top three masterpieces per age bracket (5 to 8 and 9 to 12) were chosen and announced during lunch at the Food Court. They were Lance Ian Soliman, Miki Cordova and Myda Fernando in the 5 to 8 year old bracket, and Mia Esguerra, Martha Estrada and Alexandra Dayrit in the 9 to 12 year old bracket. Prizes were complete school supplies courtesy of Sterling Paper Products.

The Kite Association of the Philippines also held a kite-making workshop. Headed by its president Orlando Ongkingco, the kids were given kite-kits, taught how to fold their kites, put decorations and strings, and how to fly them.

Aside from these activities, participants had the opportunity to meet and greet Alaska Aces players Sonny Thoss, Stephen Padilla, Jeffrey Cariaso, Brandon Cablay and Mike Cortez. They also displayed their skills at basketball shoutouts, pachinko balls and "Spill that Milk" games of Alaska.

A private screening of Columbia Pictures' Spider-Man 2 was organized at Cinema 6. Free Nestea quenched the thirsty audience and Universal Robina Corp's Taquitos and Wiggles snacks kept them munching while watching the movie.

A lot of toys, school supplies and household items were raffled off to those who stayed for lunch. No family left empty-handed. "My family and I enjoyed all the activities for the day especially the freebies and prizes," Leigh Tobias of General Milling Corp said. "I look forward to more fun-filled activities from PANA! This definitely promoted quality life in the family," she added.

Delegated were treated to free breakfast meals courtesy of Chowking Foods Corp. Alaska Milk, Milo, Nescafé, Nestea, Nestlé Waters and CDO supplied free flowing drinks and food that kept everyone energized and refreshed. Ayala Land took care of the logistical requirements in the venue. Other partners of the event which made it successful for their contributions and donations included Abbott Laboratories, Atlas Publishing, Creative Plus, Directories Philippines, Energy Food and Drinks, General Milling Corp, Goldilocks, Hershey's, Journal Group, Landbank, Metchem Industrial, Pagcor, Pascual Laboratories, Petron Corp, Sara Lee Philippines, Siemens Inc and Stiefel Philippines.

The Family Day is the culminating event of the PANA R&R Month Celebration last April. The other two events were the 1st PANA Badminton Cup held on April 16 at The Zone Badminton Courts and the PANA Fitness Day held on April 23 at Gold's Gym Galleria.

PANA president Blen Fernando, giving her welcome remarks.

EVERYBODY Chachal Nation Dog School shares their dancers.

ME! A little guy volunteers to be part of the magic show during the event.

PURINA
PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING
SPANKY Enriquez and Justin Lutian hosting the show.

FERIZA Fernando drawing her ideal summer.

A PARTICIPANT colors his kite before flying it.

ALASKA Aces signing posters for PANA members.

LOVE at first sight. Myda Fernando and Alpo dog Cash meet eye to eye.

THE MAGICIAN left the audience breathless as he levitates his assistant.

UNILAB ASSURES NO MEDICINE PRICE HIKE

Pharmaceutical leader United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) once again demonstrated industry leadership and social responsibility by committing to freeze prices of 120 vital medicines until the end of 2005 to help cushion inflation. Unilab made the pledge amid the call by Trade and Industry Secretary Juan Santos for drug companies to maintain the level of their prices. Earlier the company came out with full-page ads in the major dailies announcing the price freeze. Shown are (from left) Philippine International Trading Corp president Roberto Pagdanganan, Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla, and Secretary Santos receiving a copy of the Unilab pledge from Unilab operating vice president for corporate product portfolio management Leonardo Abadilla, Unilab consumer health (ULCH) vice president Delfin Vivar, and Unilab director for corporate affairs Alberto Manlapit. Also shown are Mercury Drug vice president Jacinto Concepcion and Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) chief executive officer Leo Wassmer.

CONTRACT SIGNING
ASIAN LIFE
FEDDERS

FEDDERS KOPPEL NAMES INSURER, CONSULTANT

Fedders Koppel Inc (Fedders), a leading global manufacturer of air treatment products, appoints AsianLife and General Assurance Corp (AsianLife and General) as its insurer in providing medical insurance benefits for its employees and their dependents and Gotuaco del Rosario and Associates (GRA) as its insurance consultant. In photo are (front, from left) GRA vice president Precie Banes, Fedders HR manager Danreb Oira and VP general manager Michael Dauden, AsianLife and General president and CEO Eugloguio Mendoza and EVP Bobby Alfonso, (back, from left) GRA employee benefits supervisor Susan Abing and AsianLife and General senior manager Concepcion Roble.

ProductFILES

Striving for perfection the Florentine way

ANONIMO timepieces are intricate technical instruments with a rich military history that dates back to the 19th century, not to mention the only Italian military watches still lovingly hand-crafted in Florence. Respected designer and entrepreneur Federico Massacessi founded Anonimo in Florence, Italy in 1997. For 2005, Anonimo together with Coll. Dott. Dino Zei reconnects the master of Florentine Militare watch-making with many of its original craftsmen. The Dino Zei line by Anonimo is totally dedicated to the principles of value and innovation that are the foundation of all Anonimo creations. Anonimo's hottest models include: Militare - an oversized military watch, featuring patented crown protection device that seals watch for water resistance and protects the crown against accidental knocks; Hi-Dive - a dive watch with an extra-large crown, automatic helium release expulsion valve, and an extra thick domed sapphire crystal; Match Racing Valencia - a specially designed sailing watch, commemorating the 2006 America's Cup in Valencia, Spain, and features a dial-center count-down minute and seconds hands, screwed lock stainless steel crown and push buttons (exclusive functions to the mechanical watch world). Anonimo watches are exclusively available at the Rafael Jewellery Store located at the 2nd Level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City with tel. no. 636-3398 to 99. The Dino Zei collection will be available by the last quarter of 2005.

Dino Zei
Made in Italy

GODIVA SAFE SEA SUNBLOCK DONATION TO PNP

Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Ricardo De Leon (2nd from left) receives from Fred Reyes (left), president of Godiva Inc, P1 million worth of Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock donation to protect police personnel from deadly jellyfish stings when undergoing sea borne exercises. Witnessing the turnover is Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Superintendent Leopoldo Bataoil, in a simple rite in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

EUROTILES IS THE NO. 1 CERAMIC TILES AGAIN

Eurotiles Industrial Corp, a leading tile manufacturer in the country receives yet another award for its tile product Eurotiles, as the 'No. 1 Ceramic Tiles (national)'. The latest recognition was bestowed by the Asia-Pacific Shoppers' Choice Institute and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals during the National Shoppers Choice Annual Awards held last June 2, at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. Shown during the awarding ceremony are lawyer Manuel R. Oyson III, the awards committee chair (left) handing over the award to Eurotiles Industrial Corp vice president for marketing Rey V. Cordova (second from left) and executive vice president and general manager Paquito S. Ngo (third from left). Co-presentors of the award were Carla Gay Balingit, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2003 (second from right) and professor Jose Jesus F. Roces, president of Asia-Pacific Marketing Federation.